FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 OCTOBER 1985

Aftermath of Achille Lauro Affair

A U.S. apology for the interception of the Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the *Achille Lauro* is expected by "all Egyptians," President Husni Mubarak stated in remarks cited by MENA 14 October. He noted that he had not yet read a message received from President Reagan the previous day because he was still "extremely indignant." Mubarak had criticized the "extremely regrettable" U.S. "act of piracy" during a 12 October press conference reported by MENA, stressing that the U.S. action "deeply wounded" him and makes it impossible to believe there is an ongoing peace process. Justifying his decision to hand the hijackers over to the PLO, Mubarak expressed confidence that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would have brought them to trial, pointing out that this would have given 'Arafat the opportunity to show he is serious in his statements. He also denied that the delay in the hijackers' departure from Egypt 10 October was evidence of Egyptian collusion over the interception of their plane, asserting that Egypt would collude with nobody in carrying out such "stupid" actions. Mubarak said that "technical, political, and administrative difficulties" caused the delay, which he only learned about 3 hours after announcing their departure. While the president "excused" Tunisia for its decision not to revoke landing permission to the plane carrying the hijackers, the Cairo paper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* condemned Tunisia's "incomprehensible collusion" with the United States in a commentary reported by MENA.

The Egyptian aircraft intercepted by U.S. planes returned to Cairo on 13 October, according to MENA. Egyptian students clashed with police during a 12 October demonstration against the U.S. action, AFP noted.

The PLO Executive Committee denounced the U.S. "air piracy operation" in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, calling for the immediate release of the passengers. AFP cited a warning by Yasir 'Arafat to Italian Prime Minister Craxi that the U.S. "piracy" could spark off "uncontrollable reactions." Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad 'Abbas, wanted by the U.S. authorities in connection with the *Achille Lauro* affair, flew to Aden 14 October following his 36-hour stopover in Belgrade, a PLO official cited by KUNA disclosed. 'Abbas announced in a Radio Monte Carlo interview that he is ready to go to the United States to explain the hijacking and the Palestine question if President Reagan guarantees his personal safety.

Arab reaction to the U.S. interception of the plane carrying the hijackers included Damascus radio's view that "the Egyptian regime and the 'Arafat gang contributed to the success of the U.S. pirate operation" and Algiers radio's contention that the U.S. Administration is trying to give a legal character to "operations of piracy." A Libyan Foreign Liaison Committee statement broadcast by Tripoli radio also denounced the "act of piracy," while an Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio criticized the "completely unjustified act." Riyadh radio warned that the hijacking of the hijackers is likely to escalate violence and undermine peace efforts.

Reaction to Cancellation of UK-PLO Talks

The British Government has called off a meeting with PLO Executive Committee members Muhammad Milhim and Iliya Khuri, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported quoting Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. Howe justified this decision because of the PLO officials' refusal to "give assurances for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East," the agency added. The PLO office in London said the document which Milhim and Khuri were asked to sign was a new version of the text which had been agreed on, KUNA noted. The PLO interprets a paragraph in the statement as recognition of Israel's right to exist, KUNA added. Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan stated that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation went to London to explain the PLO-Jordanian agreement and not to sign any statement, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

However, a Jordanian official spokesman cited by Amman radio said the meeting was cancelled because "one of the two Palestinian members of the joint delegation regrettably expressed his unwillingness to agree on the statement according to the formula that was earlier agreed."

In other Arab reaction, Damascus radio viewed the cancellation of the talks as "another slap in the face of those who are dreaming of separate solutions," while Riyadh radio said the meeting would only have produced "minor gains" had it occurred. The Israeli Foreign Ministry expressed "satisfaction" with the cancellation of the meeting in a statement issued by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in Jerusalem.

Israeli Relations With Jordan, Egypt

During his forthcoming visit to the United States, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will try to examine the possibility of implementing an "interim stage" in a settlement between Israel and Jordan without the PLO's participation, Jerusalem television reported. Noting that this could be linked to the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy plan, the television said Peres will attempt to gauge U.S. interest in such a move. On relations with Egypt, Peres told the Cabinet that he has received a message from President Mubarak expressing Egypt's concern over the recent murder of Israelis in the Sinai and promising to present all the facts connected with the incident. Nevertheless, Peres is temporarily freezing plans for a summit meeting with Mubarak, according to *HADASHOT*.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi naval units attacked Iran's "extremely important" Bahrgan oil field 12 October, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced. Iraq's naval commander said all of the oil field's facilities were set on fire and destroyed, INA reported, and he added that Bahrgan is one of the most important Iranian oil fields because it contains a principal pumping station which pumps oil to reservoirs on the Iranian coast. In other war developments, Iraqi planes raided Khark Island 11 and 14 October and hit "large" maritime targets near the Iranian coast 12, 13, and 15 October, according to military announcements carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

The war has been militarily decided in Iraq's favor, Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah claimed in remarks to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* cited by INA. He said between 700,000 and 1 million Iranians have been killed and 3 million wounded in the war and the Iranian situation is "rapidly deteriorating."

Meanwhile, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati returned from a tour of the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain during which he delivered messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i and warned that Iran will continue to inspect cargo ships in the Gulf suspected of carrying military hardware to Iraq, IRNA disclosed.

Sources cited by Tehran radio claimed there was an assassination attempt on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Ba'qubah 5 October during which five of the president's bodyguards were killed.

Iran

The Majlis gave a vote of confidence to Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to take office for a second term, IRNA reported, noting that the tally was 162 for, 73 against, and 26 abstentions.

Libya-USSR

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concluded an "official and friendly" visit to the Soviet Union, during which he and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed a long-term program for developing economic, scientific, technical, and trade cooperation between the two countries, according to a Libyan-Soviet statement transmitted by JANA. The statement said a protocol on political consultations and a consular agreement were also signed. Both sides showed readiness to exert constructive efforts to consolidate peace, security, and cooperation in a way that serves both their peoples, the statement said. Earlier, sources cited by KUNA said Al-Qadhdhafi's basic goal during the visit was to expedite delivery of Soviet advanced weaponry, including naval vessels, planes, and radar equipment.

Sudan

Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces shot down a Sudanese Air Force F-5 jet fighter 13 October east of Bor, theclandestine radio SPLA disclosed, adding that the two pilots aboard the aircraft were killed in the attack. Defense Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah confirmed that an aircraft was "lost" while on an official mission, SUNA reported. The agency also announced that all 34 political prisoners from the southern region were released, including three former governors.

Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah left Cairo after holding talks on bilateral relations with Egyptian President Mubarak and Prime Minister 'ali Lutfi, MENA reported. Meanwhile, sources cited by SUNA claimed that Mubarak recently met with an SPLA delegation and stressed the need to stop the fighting and start a dialogue with all Sudanese political forces.

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad organization "confirmed" its execution of William Buckley in a statement published by *AL-NAHAR* 12 October, asserting that the U.S. "spy" was executed in retaliation for the Israeli raid on Tunisia. The Jihad group will put Buckley's body at the disposal of the UN secretary general if Israel releases 100 Palestinian detainees, the statement added. As for the fate of the three Soviet hostages in Lebanon, a caller to Beirut radio denied Voice of Lebanon Radio reports that the Jihad organization was threatening to execute them.

Beirut radio reported that an IDF tank force entered the southern village of Arnun 14 October.

DRA-Pakistan

Afghanistan favors "normal and even friendly" relations with Pakistan, DRA President Babrak Karmal said in an interview with the Pakistani paper *THE MUSLIM* cited by BAKHTAR. While the BAKHTAR report quoted Karmal as saying the majority of Pakistanis favor a political solution to the conflict between Soviet-DRA forces and rebels through direct negotiations, an AFP account of the interview said Karmal actually called for direct talks with Pakistan. Karmal added that Soviet troops in Afghanistan will withdraw "as soon as possible" if external intervention in Afghan affairs ceases, AFP reported.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Foreign Office summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires and rejected a DRA protest that Pakistani forces shelled Barikowt 1-4 October, resulting in 25 casualties, Karachi radio announced.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq has postponed his trip to the FRG because of "domestic preoccupations," Karachi radio reported 14 October.

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PLF Reiterates Demand for Hiajckers' Release

NC121223 Paris AFP in English 1212 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Syracuse, Sicily, Oct 12 (AFP) — Thirteen passengers from the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* today identified the four Arabs held in Sicily as the hijackers of the ship, court officials said.

The passengers were shown the accused hijackers at a meeting organized by INTERPOL, the international police organization.

No other information on the passengers involved was available.

The PLF [Palestine Liberation Front], in a telephone call today to the Beirut bureau of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, made a fresh demand for the release of the four men.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the PLF, whose leader Muhammed 'Abbas is one of the two Palestinian officials who were with the hijackers, claimed that U.S. intelligence agents had hidden Mr Klinghoffer to give a pretext for the interception of the Egyptian plane.

The PLF repeated that the four had not at first intended to seize the liner, but to debark from it at Ashdod, Israel, to undertake an anti-Israeli attack.

Hostage Died of Heart Attack

NC131156 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Beirut, Oct 13 (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) said today that the U.S. passenger who was reported to have been shot by PLF hijackers during last week's ship seizure had in fact died of a heart attack.

A caller to a Western news agency here, who said he represented the pro-'Arafat PLF faction of Muhammad 'Abbas, said that according to his information, the passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, had suffered a heart attack when the ship, the *Achille Lauro*, was seized on Monday, and had been taken to the ship's hospital.

"We do not know what happened after that, how he disappeared and what made him disappear," the caller said, suggesting that the U.S. intelligence services may have been involved in Mr. Klinghoffer's disappearance "in order to justify its aerial piracy." This was a reference to the U.S. interception of a plane carrying the hijackers and Mr. 'Abbas, who had negotiated an end to the drama.

Mr. Klinghoffer's body has not been found.

Communique Cited

NC150654 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], which is led by Muhammad 'Abbas, has admitted that it hijacked the Italian ship. It said that the operation's primary target was not the *Achille Lauro*, but a military base at the Israeli port of Ashdod. Khalid al-Hasan, an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has called for disciplinary action against the PLF. He noted that the PLO Executive Committee is normally responsible for taking these measures.

Al-Hasan on Hijack Negotiations, Death of Hostage

JN111946 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1747 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] It was rumored this morning that Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, was on board the [diverted] Egyptian plane. However, it was confirmed later that he was not on this plane. We later learned that Hani al-Hasan is in Riyadh. We had the following telephone conversation with him.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Brother Hani al-Hasan, we would like to ask you the following question. You intended to leave on this plane but changed your mind at the last moment. What made you change your mind?

[Hani al-Hasan] When the question of departure was raised, I believed that we should leave by other means because we knew that the United States would not respect anyone's sovereignty, even if this sovereignty is Egyptian sovereignty. Personally I opted for leaving by other means, especially since I expected that Isral would be the one to hijack the plane.

[Correspondent] You played a great role in the negotiations to end the incident of the Italian cruise liner. Following the settlement of this, were there guarantees not to harm the four Palestinians? Did you receive international guarantees?

[Al-Hasan] In view of the importance of this issue, I would like to clarify two points. The first point is that we actually intervened in the negotiations, in participation with the brothers in Egypt. This intervention was basically motivated by the fact that an Italian cruise liner was hijacked. We view every [word indistinct] Italian, French, or British at this stage must be safeguarded because of the Italian, French, and British response to the PLO's political course. We frankly say that if, for example, the cruise liner had been a U.S. or FRG ship, we would not have intervened.

[Correspondent] Were there any direct or indirect contacts with the U.S. Embassy in Cairo?

[Al-Hasan] Yes. Egypt held such contacts and we were in contact with the Italian ambassador. A meeting was held in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry which was attended by the Italian, French, British, and U.S. ambassadors. From the very beginning, our agreement was that if the operation ends, then all those who were on board the cruise liner would disembark and leave Egypt. After seeking the agreement of all international parties concerned, Egypt agreed to play such a role.

[Correspondent] Brother Hani al-Hasan, there are some points that are still obscure. For example, when the Palestinians arrived in Port Said they said that no passengers had been killed. However, it became clear later that one passenger had been killed. Did you know about this when they arrived in Port Said?

[Al-Hasan] When they returned the second time?

[Correspondent] Yes, when they returned the second time to Port Said.

[Al-Hasan] Yes, and on this occasion I would like to thank Monte Carlo radio because the news it transmitted, using the name of Abu Khalid, played an important role in the cruise liner's return. The four Palestinians did not want to hijack the cruise liner. After they disembarked, they told us that Ashdod port had been their objective. As you know, every Palestinian has the right to go to Ashdod and fight there.

[Correspondent] Brother Hani al-Hasan, when we transmitted Abu Khalid's appeal through our radio, we were only doing the least that we could do to solve a humantarian problem.

[Al-Hasan] Yes. They informed us that when they heard Monte Carlo's appeal, they found a way to get out of something that they did not plan for — which was the hijacking of a friendly Italian ship. Therefore, they returned to the port. After they disembarked, we made an official contact through the Egyptian authorities with the captain of the ship and asked him: Do you have any damage on the ship? He said: No. This is recorded on a tape that our brothers in Egypt have. The tape was played before journalists by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. We asked them whether there were any wounded. The captain said: No. We asked: Was anybody killed? He said: No.

[Correspondent] But, Brother Hani, someone was killed. What is your personal impression, since you participated in the negotiations.

[Al-Hasan] This subject needs more information. We asked the four fighters: Was anybody killed? They said: No. Whether there was anyone missing, there are two possibilities if the four brothers told us the truth. The first possibility is that this man jumped overboard out of fear. It was a very large ship. It is impossible to see everyone who jumps overboard.

[Correspondent] But, Brother Hani, it is said that he is crippled.

[Al-Hasan] I think that this is a big lie told by Peres because he wants to get international sympathy. We asked the four men and they said that they did not see any crippled man aboard the ship.

[Correspondent] And the second possibility?

[Al-Hasan] If there was a crippled man, he would have been seen by many.

[Correspondent] You said that there are other possibilities. What are these possibilities?

[Al-Hasan] The other possibility is that the man disembarked in Alexandria Port, for example.

[Correspondent] That means he is still missing?

[Al-Hasan] May be. On this subject one cannot draw conclusions. You either know or do not know.

[Correspondent] Brother Hani, there is another ambiguous point. What is your interpretation of the following: President Husni Mubarak yesterday said that the four Palestinians left Egyptian territory. It was revealed later that the four Palestinians were in Egyptian territory and only left at night?

[Al-Hasan] As a matter of fact, the subject of their departure was left to a specified side in Egypt, of course. As for myself, personally I cannot interpret what His Excellency President Husni Mubarak said. However, it is useless to follow up details. I have no ifnormation about this subject, but undoubtedly they left [Egypt]. Perhaps there was an Egyptian attempt to protect their departure.

[Correspondent] Tunis refused to allow the plane to land. What is your interpretation? Why did Tunis refuse to allow the plane to land while it was carrying Palestinians and especially a PLO Executive Committee member?

[Al-Hasan] I do not know. This is new information. Tunisia is a sovereign country and has the right to do what it wants.

[Correspondent] My last question, Brother Hani al-Hasan. After this subject and after what has been said about Mr 'Arafat's readiness to visit New York and the United Nations and to deliver a speech there, do you think that this is still possible, considering the great difficulties in the wake of the incidents involving the ship and the plane?

[Al-Hasan] In fact, our political course which we began with the Amman agreement has been approved as the correct course. The proof of this is that the major enemy came to Tunis to strike at the major enemy. The major enemy, Israel, came to strike at its major enemy, the PLO. We will pursue the course of political struggle. As I previously said to Radio Monte Carlo, our slogan is: The armed struggle sows and the political struggle reaps. He who does not sow does not reap.

He who sows and refuses to reap is a criminal. We will pursue the struggle and will continue to work to go to the United Nations. I say that in the last 10 meters of the race to reach a certain objective, many clashes must happen and much blood will flow. I think that all that is going on is the blood involved in the labor pains that we must go through.

[Correspondent] Do you consider these to be the last labor pains?

[Al-Hasan, interrupting] We can obtain a resolution from the United Nations if Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] goes to the United Nations to deliver his speech. The question we will now study is the following: Will there be any political gains for us or not?

[Correspondent] Since you spoke about labor pains, are these the last labor pains?

[Al-Hasan] This is a very decisive year in the history of the Palestinian people, as well as in the history of the peoples in the region. There will be a meeting between the two giants. We must realize that if the giants agree, the small will be subdued. Therefore, we must not be small so that we will not be subdued.

[Correspondent] Brother Hani al-Hasan, thank you. [end recording]

Sees Change in Egypt

LD121506 Kuwait KUNA in English 0906 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 12 (KUNA) — A senior Palestinian leader has blamed the U.S. Administration for what he said [was] the hatching of a plot to eliminate President Husni Mubarak of Egypt because Mubarak wants to bring his country back to hhe Arab fold.

Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Hani al-Hasan was speaking to KUNA chairman and director general Bargis Ahmad al-Bargis in an interview over the telephone Friday night.

President Mubarak was moving in a positive political direction, Al-Hasan said and hinted that a dialogue was in process on how to abrogate the Camp David accords signed by Egypt's former President Anwar al-Sadat with Israel and the United States, the principal supporter of the Zionist entity, in 1978.

Speaking over the phone from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Hani al-Hasan said that he held a 'strategic and important' meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo last week which left the impression on him that the Egyptian leader was taking a greatly progressive line of action based on realization and his awareness through exercising power that international dealings and the principled adherence to stands should be in conformity with the desires of the people.

Hani al-Hasan indirectly hailed the rational and positive approach of President Mubarak towards the Palestinian cause and said the Egyptian leader had realized the 'mode of confrontation' which was clearly reflected in the firm stand taken by Mubarak on the cowardly act of Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Mubarak had strongly criticized the raid and branded it as a new dimension in the realm of terrorism, Al-Hasan said.

Al-Hasan held the United States equally responsible for the air raid on PLO headquarters in Tunis and said that the U.S. President Ronald Reagan had given written instructions to the American agencies to coordinate with Israel in destroying the Palestinians' sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization and murdering its chief Yasir 'Arafat.

Speaking with firmness and clarity, Al-Hasan said he has in his possession the evident proof of active U.S. complicity in the Israeli raid on Tunis, but, he added, 'had it not been the fear of losing the highly placed source of our information', he would have made the evidence public to show the extent of U.S. involvement in the Israeli raid on PLO headquarters.

Referring back to the current relations between the PLO and Egypt and U.S. frustration over these developments, Al-Hasan said that Egypt has taken into full consideration the firm demands of the PLO and has thus rejected the 'autonomy' plan declaring its firm insistence on nothing less than an independent Palestinian state.

Apparently referring to the political undercurrents in Egypt and describing the development of relations between the PLO and the post Al-Sadat Egypt, Al-Hasan said that Egypt has not only freezed but abandoned and declared null and void the second part of the Camp David accords which stipulates granting autonomy to the Palestinians.

The Egyptian stand on this issue was quite clear, Al-Hasan said and added that President Mubarak was all out for the PLO demand for an independent Palestinian state.

Citing as an example of another positive change in the Egyptian stand on the Palestinian cause, Al-Hasan said that President Mubarak had supported the call for an international conference to help resolve the Palestinian problem.

Al-Hasan said that the entire Europe and the rest of the world stood with the PLO except the United States and Israel which, being highly frustrated over the positive political developments, tried to destroy the PLO, dump the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move and eliminate President Mubarak who was acting gradually and steadily to translate the desires of his people into practice.

Al-Hasan played a leading role in working out the deal that led to the surrender of the four Palestinian hijackers of the Italian liner *Achille Lauro* Thursday. He flew to Riyadh from Cairo the same evening.

Further on Egypt

GF131115 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Dubayy, 13 Oct (WAKH) — Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has asserted that there is a U.S. scheme to topple Egyptian President Husni Mubarak because of his Arab leanings.

In a statement published today in the Dubayy newspaper *AL-BAYAN*, Al-Hasan stated that what worries the Americans is Mubarak's stand in support of the PLO and the demand to establish an independent Palestinian state, and his emphasis on the desire to preserve the sovereignty of Arab Egypt. President Mubarak has said that although he has inherited a situation of incomplete sovereignty in the Sinai, he will never agree to have less than full sovereignty in Cairo [as received] and that Arab Egypt will not stand still if Israel attacks Jordan or any other Arab country.

The Palestinian official added that Robert McFarlane, assistant to the U.S. President for national security affairs, who gave the order to bomb the PLO headquarters in Tunis and to kill Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has responded to Mubarak's stance by saying that he will halt all U.S. aid to Egypt.

Hani al-Hasan stated that the PLO supports Egypt's Arab stand and its leanings, which have not yet moved to the level of major policy. He indicated that this move requires a firm Arab stand that supports Egypt in its pan-Arab leanings.

Hani al-Hasan added that President Mubarak agreed to intervene in the Italian ship affair because Egypt and the PLO wished to help the Italian prime minister and to support his stand which supports the Arab Palestinian cause.

Qaddumi Says Death of U.S. Passenger 'Big Lie'

JN111712 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1645 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has refuted U.S. accusations that the hijackers of the Italian cruise liner killed one of its U.S. passengers during the hijack operation. He described these accusations as a big lie fabricated by the CIA. Brother Abu al-Lutf was speaking at the UN Security Council which began deliberations last night on dimensions of the Middle East and Palestinian causes.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the U.S. accusations were not substantiated by facts. He added that the U.S. stand in the UN Security Council on the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis is irrefutable proof that the U.S. does not want a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.

'Arafat Message to Craxi Warns of Reactions

NC122056 Paris AFP in English 2043 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Tunis, Oct 12 (AFP) — The U.S. interception of an Egyptian Boeing 737 carrying four Arabs charged with hijacking an Italian liner could lead to dangerous, "uncontrollable reactions," Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said today in a message to Italian Premier Bettino Craxi.

Mr. 'Arafat called the U.S. action an "act of piracy troublesome for all parties concerned," the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported here.

"Uncontrollable reactions could occur, such as what happened on the Italian liner," the message said, in a reference to the hijacking of the ship and the murder of a U.S. passenger.

"Reactions are emerging in Egyptian and Arab streets which could lead to dangerous consequences," Mr. 'Arafat warned. Anti-U.S. demonstrations were staged in Cairo today to protest the interception of the Egyptian jetliner.

Mr. 'Arafat again demanded that Italy release the Egyptian plane and the 19 passengers and crew who were on board when U.S. warplanes intercepted it on a flight from Cairo to Tunis and forced it to land on a NATO base in Sicily.

Mr. 'Arafat said that one of the Boeing's passengers, Muhammad Abu al-'Abbas, the leader of a pro-'Arafat faction of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF], was to be given diplomatic immunity. The PLF has claimed credit for the hijacking.

Mr. Al-'Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, was one of two Palestinian officials who "largely contributed to convincing the commandos to turn themselves in to Egyptian authorities," Mr. 'Arafat said.

Mr. al-'Abbas, for whom Washington launched an international arrest warrant, left Italy today aboard a Yugoslav plane bound for Belgrade, the PLO office in Rome said.

PLO Asks Italy To Hand Over Ship Hijackers

JN131024 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1002 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] The PLO has asked Italian authorities to hand over to it the hijackers of the Italian cruise liner in order to try them in accordance with Palestinian laws. This request was submitted by Walid Ghazal, one of the officials at the PLO office in Rome, who added that the PLO intervened, as did Egypt, to settle the question of the detention of the cruise liner's passengers in response to an urgent request submitted by the Italian Government. He added that the PLO sent Hani al-Hasan and Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] to Egypt for this purpose and that the joint Egyptian-Palestinian efforts resulted in the surrender of the hijackers without bloodshed.

The Palestinian spokesman said the air piracy carried out by a superpower conceals Washington's intention to undermine the relations of friendship which exist between Italy on one side and Egypt and the PLO on the other.

Reaction to U.S. Interception of Egyptian Airliner

PFLP Calls for Attack

LD111540 Kuwait KUNA in English 1454 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 11 (KUNA) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Friday urged the Arab states to cut off diplomatic relations with the United States and called on the nationalists and progressive Arab forces to strike at American interests in the Arab world.

The PFLP appeal, voiced in hitherto unknown strong words, was in response to America's interception of the Egyptian airliner carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* to Tunis for delivery to the Palestine Liberation Organisation for trial.

"We call on all Arab regimes, if they have any dignity left with them, to revise their policies towards Washington and sever diplomatic relations with her," the PFLP appeal made by the Kuwait office of the front today said.

The PFLP branded the skyjacking of the Egyptian Boeing 737 earlier today by the American jet fighters as "an act of air piracy to be added to the rich record of the United States in exercising international terrorism...and new aggression on the Arab nation and violation of the Egyptian sovereignty."

"We further urge all the nationalist and progressive Arab forces to escalate their struggle against Washington's policy in the region and strike at the American interests in the Arab world so that this crime will not pass unpunished," the PFLP appeal added.

The PFLP statement said today's American air piracy, "revealed anew that Washington, which claims to condemn and combat terrorism, is the main centre of international terrorism and that it heads the list of nations exporting terrorism."

In condemning this flagrant aggression which "was mounted in close coordination with the NATO countries, we call on the Arab regime, if they have a grain of dignity left with them, to cut off diplomatic ties with Washington and urge the progressive and nationalist Arab forces to step up their resistance and strike at America's interests in the region", the PFLP statement said.

PLO Statement

JN121914 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1629 GMT 12 Oct 85

["Text" of PLO Executive Committee Statement issued on 11 October]

[Text] Brothers: The PLO Executive Committee has strongly denounced the hijacking of the Egyptian plane by U.S. fighters. It said this action is flagrant aggression against Egyptian and Arab sovereignty from the ocean to the Gulf. In a statement issued yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee stressed that this U.S. piracy provides new proof of U.S. President Reagan's involvement in these terrorist operations. The statement called on the Arab masses to immediately and properly reply to this new U.S. crime and to resolutely confront this flagrant U.S.-Israeli violation and arrogance represented by challenging Arab dignity. The following is the text of the statement:

The Arab nation and all of international public opinion were surprised at the air piracy operation carried out by U.S. 6th Fleet aircraft against a special Egyptian aircraft carrying a high-level Egyptian delegation bearing a letter for Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] which was accompanied by Brother Abu al-'Abbas [Muhamamd 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, who had participated with his Egyptian and Palestinian brothers in securing the release without bloodshed of the passengers of the Italian ship. This was achieved as a result of this valuable joint cooperation. The four people who carried out the hijacking operation were also on board the special Egyptian aircraft.

The U.S. air piracy, which constitutes a serious and flagrant aggression against Egyptian sovereignty, has come at a time when concerted Palestinian, Egyptian, and Italian efforts were able to secure the release of the Italian ship and its passengers without bloodshed. U.S. President Reagan, who supervised the piracy operation in collusion with other international parties, shoulders full responsibility for the consequences of any harm inflicted on PLO Executive Committee member Brother Muhammad 'Abbas and the rest of the plane's passengers.

The PLO denounces and strongly condemns the U.S. air piracy against the special Egyptian plane and its passengers and calls for the immediate release of the plane and its passengers without delay. The PLO, as the Italian prime minister and foreign minister have admitted, and as recognized by the Egyptian authorities, made every possible effort to obtain the release of the ship's passengers. It believes that it is its duty to explain to our Arab and Palestinian masses that the U.S. piracy is a flagrant aggression against Egyptian and Arab sovereignty from the ocean to the Gulf and that this piracy will lead to grave consequences on the Palestinian and Arab levels.

The PLO wishes to stress that this piracy provides new proof of President Reagan's involvement in this new terrorist operation of piracy. This is a clear U.S. sign encouraging the Zionist enemy to commit future and past [as heard] crimes, including the U.S.-Israeli crime of bombing the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

(?The PLO considers this air piracy operation against an Egyptian plane to be a slap in the face of every honorable and sincere Arab). We call on the masses of our Arab nation to provide an immediate and suitable reply to this new U.S. crime, to stand firm so as to face this flagrant U.S.-Israeli violation and impudence in challenging Arab dignity, and to expose their unjustified dangerous plan to subjugate our Arab nation. This requires a courageous and sincere stand not only on the part of our Arab governments and states, but also on the part of the Arab masses and peoples. It is the right of the PLO, which is being exposed to the U.S.-Israeli onslaught on more than one front, to call on the Arab nation, states, and peoples at the highest levels to unite their ranks and face these fateful threats and challenges to us all.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee

Al-Wazir Condemns Interception

GF111930 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1820 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has made the following statement on the hijacking of the Egyptian plane by U.S. military planes:

The air piracy carried out by the United States under the personal supervision of President Reagan against the Egyptian plane carrying Brother Muhammad 'Abbas, alias, Abu al-'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and a number of Egyptian officials, is causing the situation to escalate to a serious point, with dire consequences. Brother Abu al-'Abbas and those accompanying him on the plane played an effective role in solving the problem of the hijacked ship and preventing serious conseuqnces.

Abu al-'Abbas and a number of those with him in Cairo put pressure on the group which hijacked the ship to stop them from taking any action which would threaten the safety of passengers. This U.S. act carried out by U.S. military planes against the Egyptian plane is a blatant terrorist act by a superpower against Egypt's sovereignty and dignity. We hold the U.S. Administration and President Reagan personally responsibile for the safety of the PLO Executive Committee member and those with him. This air piracy violates the agreement signed by the PLO, the Egyptian Government, and the Italian Government to resolve the ship issue. It will produce regrettableconsequences and will complicate any efforts to prevent such crises in the future. Apart from providing drama, such an act can only undermine any practical remedy for such issues.

We urge the Italian Government to adhere to the agreement signed with regard to the ship issue and prevent any steps which might further complicate this issue.

PNC Speaker Reacts

JN120928 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 85 pp 1, 24

[Excerpt] Tunis — The PLO Executive Committee issued a statement late last night condemning the hijacking of the Egyptian plane, its forced landing at a NATO base in southern Italy, and the arrest of its passengers. The statement says that the plane was carrying a high-ranking Egyptian delegation bringing a personal message to Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad 'abbas, and the four armed men who seized the Italian ship.

In another development, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih told *AL-DUSTUR* that it is not strange to see the United States defending Israeli terrorism against the Palestinian people as represented by the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis. The PNC speaker added that the PLO condemned the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner and said: Just as we condemn the killing of the U.S. tourist, if he was really killed on board the ship, we strongly condemn the hijacking of the Egyptian plane by U.S. military planes. We also consider this act an aggression against Egyptian sovereignty and a blatant violation of international law by a superpower which claims to be concerned about preserving this law.

WAFA Editor Reacts

LD121120 Algiers APS in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Tunis, 12 Oct (APS) — In Tunis yesterday, the PLO accused the United States of being the "the prime party responsible for and the principal source of organized state terrorism in the world." It also affirmed that "terrorism breeds terrorism and no one with anypolitical vision can believe that it is possible to deal with a terrorist operation by another terrorist operation more ugly and more fierce."

The political editor of the Palestine News Agency, WAFA, commented on the deplored act of piracy by two [as received] American fighter planes which forced a private Egyptian plane carrying the Palestinian youths accused of hijacking the Italian liner *Achille Lauro* to land at a NATO base in Sicily. He wrote: "Once more, and after the U.S.-Israeli raid on Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis, the United States provesthat it is the primary party responsible for and indeed the organized official source of terrorism in the world."

He added that the United States "proudly" embarked at dawn to commit an act of air piracy against an Egyptian civilian plane,using for this purpose U.S. Air Force military aircraft which took off from Italian territory against the hijackers whose safety was guaranteed and who were promised to be handed over to the PLO for trial.

The WAFA editor added: It seems the U.S. Administration was opposed to ending the operation in such a manner that safeguarded the lives of the passengers and prevented any threat to their lives, as is evidently clear from the betrayal of pledges given by the parties to the negotiations, namely the Egyptian authorities and the PLO, and the betrayal of Italian authorities who had officially asked the PLO and Egypt to secure an end to the operation and who kept in touch moment by moment with the officials in Egypt and with PLO officials.

The WAFA editor described the American decision as a dumb decision which violated the sovereignty of two countries, Italy and Egypt, and the PLO's sovereignty over its citizens. He added: "We are not surprised by this decision which reflects political short-sightedness and the shouldering of responsibility for terrorism in the world by a superpower which is supposed to provide a major guarantee for peace, security, and justice."

He added that the action by the U.S. Administration, which has moved from the role of protector against terrorism to the role of direct perpetrator of terrorism, calls to our mind its attitude overSabra and Shatila in 1982 "when it guaranteed in writing the protection of the Palestine camps in Lebanon but kept silent about the massacres carried out by the Israelis at Sabra and Shatila and encouraged Israel to invade Beirut and abandon all its pledges."

The WAFA political editor said, "terrorism breeds terrorism." He added that nobody with political vision can believe that it is possible to deal with the results of a terrorist operation with an uglier and more fierce act of terrorism.

ALF Reacts

JN120628 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has asserted that the U.S. warplanes' hijacking of the Egyptian plane reaffirms that U.S.-Zionist imperialism is still practicing organized terrorism even against those who assisted in the humanitarian efforts to release the passengers and crew of the Italian ship. A spokesman for the ALF told INA: Barely a few days had passed after the crime committed by the Zionist entity with U.S. imperialism's support and participation against the Tunisian Arab people and the PLO offices, and even before the blood of the martyrs in this criminal aggression had dried, the United States carried out the most outrageous air piracy and organized international terrorist act by hijacking an Egyptian airliner and forcing it to land at a NATO base.

The spokesman said: We in the ALF denounce all forms of terrorism and crimes committed by Zionist imperialism against our Arab people in Palestine and all the Arab countries and call on all forces, parties, national progressive organizations, and honest strugglers everywhere in the world to denounce and condemn this serious aggression which constitutes a grave danger to humanity and its future.

Algiers VOP Comments

LD112244 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Bravo! Congratulations to us and to you. The Zionist and terrorist, Shim'on Peres, thus addressed the master of the American house of terrorism, cowboy Reagan, after U.S. F-14 warplanes yesterday carried out the biggest and ugliest air piracy operation against an Egyptian Arab civilian airliner. This plaudit from Zionist Peres was his response to Reagan's plaudit to Peres 10 days ago after the joint U.S.-Zionist terroristic and barbaric raid on Tunisian territory and the PLO headquarters there, with which he slapped the faces of all Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf.

The little terrorist has thus applauded the big terrorist, Reagan. The Middle East region, the Arab countries in particular and the world in general, is a huge American farm for cowboy Reagan, where his horses can wander and rove and nobody can stop them, because cowboy Reagan carries on his hips the revolvers of terrorism and fires in all directions: He assassinates, kills, and comits crimes with impunity.

Yesterday Reagan, full of terrorist insolence, sat in the American house of terrorism surrounded by his gang, from Shultz to Weinberger and others, and with the impudence of the imperialist who is against the human race and human rights, he declared that he gave orders to his fleets and to U.S. carriers to carry out the terrorist air piracy operation against an Egyptian Arab civilianairliner. His fleets moved in the Mediterranean and violated the integrity of all countries in the region, including his NATO allies. His F-14 aircraft violated the airspace of all countries in the region and carried out terroristic, criminal, piratical, and murderous acts in the same way as they did 10 days ago, when American aircraft piloted by the Zionists violated all airspaces and bombarded the Tunisian Arab territories and the PLO headquarters there.

With imperialist insolence, Reagan has also reiterated his accusations against the PLO and its leadership and libeled it with the charge of terrorism.

The PLO, its leadership headed by brother leader Yasir 'Arafat, who did the impossible over very long days to release the passengers who were on board the hijacked Italian ship, through his humanitarian action and his concern for all human life, and through his coordination and cooperation with Egyptian and Italian officials succeeded in bringing a peaceful end to the operation and the surrender of the hijackers. He did not end the matter there. He asked the Egyptian officials to hand them over for trial.

This is Yasir 'Arafat, the humanitarian Palestinian leader, who was described by Italian officials as a leader and a candid man, who with his humanitarianism and his agruments succeeded in safeguarding the lives of the passengers on the Italian ship. The whole world has hailed 'Arafat's efforts except the enemies of the world, the enemies of humanity and human beings everywhere, the foes of peace and justice, the Zionist terrorists and the American imperialists.

Now, let us ask, after all this, who is the terrorist? Who is the criminal who sheds human blood? Is it Yasir 'Arafat, who spent many days without sleep until he was sure about the safety of the passengers on the Italian ship and did the impossible to achieve that? Or is it the head of the American house of terrorism, cowboy Reagan, who ordered his military fleets to roam the length and breadth of the Mediterranean and to chase the hijacked ship from one port to another to destroy it and its passengers? Who is the criminal terrorist? Is it Yasir 'Arafat, who worked day and night from the debris of PLO headquarters destroyed by U.S. F-16 warplanes, when the blood of the Palestinians and Tunisians vindictively assassinated by Zionist-American criminality was not even dry yet? Or is it cowboy Reagan, who surrounded himself at the American house of terrorism with his gang members and instructed them to kill and commit criminal acts? He ordered the fleets and the carriers to move and gave them the orders to violate international waters and airspace and to carry out mid-air piratical operations against civilian aircraft.

Who is the terrorist, the leader of the worldwide terrorists? The whole world saw Yasir 'Arafat years ago at the UN Headquarters, saw him carrying an olive branch while addressing the world, saying:Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand. This world knows exactly who Yasir 'Arafat is, and knows who made the olive branch fall from his hands, and who with his aircraft, missiles,and utter rancor burned this olive branch. Reagan: The world knows who is the human being and who is the terrorist.

Voice of PLO Comments

JN112032 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1704 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] When four Palestinians seized the Italian ship *Achille Lauro* because it was heading toward occupied Palestine's coast, the U.S. President described the operation as ridiculous and cowardly. At the time, we did not know that the U.S. President was commenting on the technical aspects of the operation. In his capacity as a first-class terrorist, the President considered the ship operation ridiculous from a professional's viewpoint. He also described the operation as the work of amateurs.

The four Palestinians put a peaceful, humanitarian end to the operation after prolonged negotiations with Egyptian authorities and through the PLO's efforts in the first place, as admitted by Italy, the owner of the ship. This operation ended in accordance with a negotiated agreement that the PLO would receive the group and would immediately take them out of Egypt. But Washington, a professional in organized international terrorism, announced its anger and discontent over this peaceful result, refuting Washington's allegations regarding Palestinian terrorism.

Washington, then, began to put pressure on the Egyptian authorities — pressure that led to the delay of the four Palestinians' departure until this morning, when they left on board an Egyptian Boeing-737 aircraft. After leaving Egyptian airspace, four U.S. warplanes intercepted it, hijacked it, and forced it to land at a U.S. military base on the Italian island of Sicily.

In his statement in Washington, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger revealed details of the hijacking of the plane, as well as the techniques used in this terrorist operation, boasting that the operation was carried out accurately. From this, we knew what U.S. President Ronald Reagan meant when he commented on the Italian ship operation, describing it as ridiculous. In accordance with Washington's logic, terrorist operations should be on an equal level with the hijacking of the Egyptian plane. U.S. Secretary Caspar Weinberger revealed without any shame that the U.S. warplanes waited in the darkness for the Egyptian plane, just as a fully armed highwayman or professional criminal might act against a small, unarmed group of people and force them to meet his evil demands. The U.S. secretary is not ashamed of disclosing that the U.S. 6th Fleet participated in hijacking the Egyptian plane, a civilian plane with only six unarmed Palestinians on board.

The United States says it is a superpower and has international responsibilities. It also claims that it fights terrorism while it exercises organized terrorism, even using its nuclear power in its terrorist operations. The U.S. secretary also did not forget to described his intelligence as very efficient, just as his superior, Ronald Reagan, praised the Israeli enemy's intelligence in a revealed attempt to raise the morale of these bloody organs after they proved their failure regarding the repression of the people's national movements. Weinberger wants us to believe his lie about his very efficient intelligence, which knew that the Palestinians were aboard the Egyptian Boeing plane. This was not a secret at all because of several considerations we will later mention.

What should the world do or say regarding the U.S. air piracy and this ugly terrorist operation in which the U.S. Administration used its entire 6th Fleet? What should it say regarding this irresponsible, aggressive, terrorist use of force reinforced with the various advanced weapons of the U.S. 6th Fleet? Have international responsibility and logic anything to do with using such force in an exposed terrorist hijacking operation against an Egyptian plane? Is it logical for a superpower such as the United States to put its 6th Fleet on alert in order to hijack a civilian plane carrying a group of Palestinians?

Regardless of the nature of the seizure of the Italian ship by the four Palestinians who ended this operation peacefully, following the PLO's decisive intervention, has Washington the right to attack an Egyptian plane and violate Italian sovereignty by asking it to hand the Palestinian group over to the United States? How can Italy violate its agreement that the PLO would receive the Palestinians — an agreement by which the Italian ship operation ended peacefully?

We call on the international community to take a serious position on this U.S. air piracy, which affirms that the United States is the leader of organized international terrorism and is using its huge military capabilities without shouldering any responsibility in its capacity as a superpower. The U.S. secretary of state impudently admitted that the hijacking of the Egyptian plane was purely a U.S. operation carried out with Italian agreement and without Egypt's knowledge. We do not care if the U.S. secretarywants to conceal information or certain facts. What is important is the the U.S. secretary is boastful about this terrorist operation because it was purely a U.S. operation carried out far from U.S. territory as if the region were U.S. territory.

Any absence of Arab reaction which can deter this U.S. air piracy and can reply to this U.S. arrogance will mean that there really is U.S. hegemony over this region. Regrettably, we have not yet heard any Arab reaction against Washington's piracy and its hijacking of the Egyptian plane. What does this mean? It is a question whose answer is undoubtedly clear in the minds of our Arab masses who will certainly reply to this U.S. air piracy.

PLO Statement on Cancellation of UK Meeting

JN151317 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Report by Fu'ad Na'im from Amman]

[Text] A short while ago, the first official PLO statement was issued on the cancellation of a meeting in London between the British foreign secretary and two PLO Executive Committee representatives. It is clear that there is an indirect contradiction between the Palestinian stand and the official Jordanian statement that was issued yesterday and which stressed that one of the two PLO representatives in the joint delegation refused to sign a previously agreed statement which included the points announced by the British prime minister in Aqaba.

The PLO statement, which was issued a short while ago,pointed out that the PLO regrets the British foreign secretary's decision not to meet with a Palestinian-Jordanian joint delegation. The PLO statement explained that the formula that was presented on the proposed statement by the British side was not identical to the text of the British prime minister's statement in Aqaba on 20 September 1985. The PLO believes that this formula does not conform to the text of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, in addition to the British side's rejection of the participation of the director of the PLO office in London in the meeting. Such a stand would mean that the meeting was not a meeting with PLO representatives but with members of the PLO in their capacity as private individuals. Therefore, the Palestinian side's stand was based on the constants adhered to regarding rejecting an agreement to issue a statement in such a form at a time when the objective of this meeting was defined as explaining the Jordanian-Palestinian joint agreement and the aspects of political action in the international arena in order to reach a just and lasting peace that guarantees the Palestinian people's national and inalienable rights.

The PLO statement adds: The PLO had earlier expressed its satisfaction with the British prime minister's decision to receive a joint delegation, considering this decision a positive step by the British Government toward the PLO and regarding the international conference. Therefore, we stress our rejection of the erroneous interpretations made by the British foreign secretary —

interpretations that further escalate the situation in the Middle East and produce negative effects on the international situation in general. We wonder about the objective of the attempts to impose preconditions or what is described as showing good intentions by our side at a time when we see that the Israeli side, supported by the United States, escalates its aggression and terrorism against the Palestinian people in a brutal manner and escalates its inransigence toward denying the Palestinian people's rights. Pressures must be exerted on them [the Israelis] by all international parties that are concerned about achieving justice and peace.

The escalation of the propganda and political onslaught by the United States and the Israeli Government and the Israeli military aggression and air piracy that have accompanied this onslaught against the PLO and its clear political action, which is based on an entrenched basis, proves the determination of the United States and Israel to strike at all the conditions and possibilities for achieving a just and lasting peace. This also proves the soundness, clearity, and justice of the Palestinian stand expressed by the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

DFLP Reacts

JN141323 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Commenting on the British Government's decision not to meet with PLO figures within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, an official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] said that the PLO leadership is fully responsible for all the humiliation inflicted on the Palestinian side. He condemned all pressures to wrench further concessions in favor of the U.S.-Israeli conditions, the latest of which was the British action which constitutes a new link aimed at further dragging the PLO toward authorizing King Husayn to hold direct negotiations with Israel, according to the DFLP spokesman.

Al-Hasan, PFLP React

JN150734 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] In Tunis, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has said that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation went to London to explain the Amman agreement not to sign any statement.

Rafiq al-Natshah, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, has expressed the Palestinians' despair at achieving political solutions by saying that the Palestinians have no choice but to pursue the course of armed struggle.

In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said that the British decision constituted blackmail to force the PLO to make more concessions. The Front accused Britain of submitting to U.S. and Zionist pressures.

Further Reaction

AU141455 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpts] London, Oct 14 (AFP) — Britain today cancelled a meeting between two members of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

The last-minute cancellation of the meeting with PLO delegates of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation Muhammad Milhim and Anglican Bishop Ilya Khuri was because they refused to sign a document agreed upon earlier in which they would pledge to publicly "renounce violence", Sir Geoffrey said in a statement.

But the PLO said in a statement from its offices here that the document its delegates were asked to sign was an "unacceptable" new version of the text the two parties had agreed upon.

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called the British cancellation "a new pressure to obtain more concessions and to satisfy Israeli-American demands."

The DLFP, a Marxist Palestinian group critical of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said that the move "aimed to force the PLO into letting King Husayn of Jordan begin bilateral direct negotiations with the enemy", Israel, in the name of the PLO.

The DLFP called for Palestinians to break the February 11 agreement between Mr. 'Arafat and King Husayn, in order to consolidate PLO unity and its Arab and international alliances.

In East Jerusalem, Hanna Sanyurah, named by the PLO and Jordan as a member of the joint delegation to open negotiations with the United States, said he was "profoundly disappointed" by the cancellation of the London meeting.

Mr. Sanyurah, a newspaper editor whose position in the delegation had been accepted by Israeli Premier Shim'on Peres, said the two delegates "could not accept such a precondition and sign a document before being able to meet the British officials."

The cancellation "could only heighten tension in the region and increase the risk of war," he said.

EC, Jordanian-Palestinian Team Meeting Postponed

JN141822 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1742 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Luxembourg, 14 Oct (INA) — It was learned here that the meeting scheduled to be held between the EEC and the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation on Wednesday has been postponed until further notice. A source close to the Luxembourg foreign minister, who is presiding over the current EEC session, said the meeting was postponed because of some member-states' reservations over holding such meetings in the wake of what he termed recent developments in the Arab region.

Details of 'Arafat Meeting With USSR Envoy

GF111427 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Oct 85 p 18

[Text] Tunis — *AL-QABAS* has learned from well-informed Palestinian sources that the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunis was successful and that the discussions dealt with two main issues, namely Palestinian-Soviet relations and the Palestinian reaction to the Soviet communique on the Israeli raid. The Soviet official told 'Arafat that Moscow only recognizes the PLO and that it does not recognize any faction outside the PLO framework. The Soviet charge d'affaires told 'Arafat that the United States refuses to discuss the Palestinian issue in the framework of discussions on the Middle East during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in November; Moscow, however, insists on discussing all aspects of the Palestinian issue during the summit. The sources said that Moscow informed 'Arafat that any dialogue with the United States that leads to a unilateral solution will be regarded as a deviation in Moscow's view. Moscow, on the other hand, expressed to 'Arafat its satisfaction with the PLO refusal to accept Murphy's conditions to meet with the joint delegation. During the meeting, 'Arafat expressed his high regard for the strategic relations that link Moscow with the PLO, and expressed the Palestinian leadership's satisfaction with the Soviet communique that denounces the Israeli raid.

Al-Banna on 'Hit List' Including World leaders

JN140721 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0600 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The well-known West German magazine *DER SPIEGEL* has published an interview with Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. In this interview, Abu Nidal threatens to carry out assassinations and to deal a strong blow to France. The interview with Abu Nidal does not carry a signature, mention a date, or include photographs. The writer simply says that his interlocutor unbuttoned his shirt and showd him the marks of a chest operation he underwent in the United States 8 years ago to prove that he is indeed Abu Nidal.

In this interview, Abu Nidal, or rather the man claiming to be Abu Nidal, says he has drawn up a hit list of figures he plans to liquidate within 2 months. The list is headed by President Reagan, British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, whom he describes as a savage creature, King Husayn of Jordan, and Egyptian President Mubarak who, he says, is a traitor to Arab unity.

Abu Nidal threatens France, saying that in 2 months the French will receive an unforgettable blow. He also says that his organization is allied with the French terrorist organization, Direct Action.

The interlocutor tells *DER SPIEGEL* that his friends are the Syrian Government and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Abu Nidal says Yasir 'Arafat is a puppet dancing to the U.S. and Zionist tune and in fact an agent of Israeli intelligence, the Mosad.

Abu Nidal gives details of his identity. He says that his full name is Sabri Khalil al-Banna, that he was born in 1937 to a well-to-do family in Yafo, and that he got his elementray education at the French Friars School there. He says that he is married and is the father of three children.

Regarding the financing of his organization, Abu Nidal says that funds come from strugglers and on oil-rich Arab state.

BAHRAIN

AL-ADWA' Says U.S. Plane Intercept 'Overt Piracy'

GF120756 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0714 GMT 12 Oct 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Oct (WAKH) — In its editorial today, the Bahraini weekly newspaper *AL-ADWA'* says that international piracy has become the norm and that adherence to international laws and norms has become the exception.

AL-ADWA' emphasizes that the pursuit of the Egyptian Boeing 727 airliner carrying a number of Palestinians is overt piracy which the United States carried out shamelessly, fearlessly, and with no regard for Egypt's friendship or to world public opinion. The newspaper continues: Four U.S. F-14 aircraft forcing the Egyptian civilian airliner to land in the NATO military base of Sigonella means that the United States appointed itself a security gendarme for the entire world.

The newspaper asks: What would the fate of that Egyptian airliner have been had its pilot not conceded to the U.S. piracy and the orders imposed on him? "Certainly it would now be a scattered junk in the bed of the Mediterranean and the Palestinians on board this plane would now be martyrs of terrorism of the Yankee government." The newspaper affirms that what the United States has done and is doing, not only with its enemies but also with its friends, beginning with Tunisia and ending with Egypt, contravenes logic, all international norms and charters, and humane considerations.

KUWAIT

AL-ANBA' Says U.S. Ready for 'Terrorist Agressions'

GF121704 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 12 Oct 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Oct (WAKH) — Kuwaiti daily *AL-ANBA'* said the seizure of the Egyptian Boeing 737 "affirmed that the U.S. acts militarily and is ready to commit terrorist aggressions on Arab targets whenever such attacks are in the interest of Israel only."

The *Al-ANBA'* added "most likely the U.S. wants to embarrass President Husni Mubarak as a prelude to disposing of him and stirring anarchy in Egypt before the new revolutionary Egyptian forces succeed in strengthening Egypt's feet on the path of returning to the Arab fold."

U.S. Actions 'Complicate' Mideast Situation

LD131333 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1234 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Oct (KUNA) — Kuwait today stated that the interception of the Egyptian airliner over the Mediterranean by the U.S. air Force fighters "will further complicate the Middle East problem, had no convincing justification, and will put the region back into the circles of violence and instability."

A responsible source at the Kuwaiti ministry of Foreign Affairs told KUNA that Kuwait had followed with anxiety the news of the interception of the Egyptian airliner by the U.S. air force fighters at a time when the PLO had announced that it would try the hijackers of the Italian ship *Achille Lauro*.

The source stressed that "at the time when efforts are being exerted at the UN to find a just and lasting peace for our region, the Israeli enemy, who is the prime cause for its instability, practices the ugliest methods of murder and expulsion and all sorts of terrorism against the sons of the Palestinian people, thus challenging the whole world and contradicting all international values, norms and laws."

Newspapers View UK Cancellation of PLO Meeting

LD150857 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0702 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 15 Oct (KUNA) — Four Kuwaiti dailies launched a violent attack on Britain today for refusing to receive a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation due to emergency [as received] excuses, but said that the Conservative Government, under Margaret Thatcher's leadership, yielded to the American and Zionist lobby's pressures. The papers expressed their belief that it is high time to halt the game of brokerage and the gambling with the Palestinian people's destiny.

The daily *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* said that the British confirmed yesterday that they are the masters of coercion, the priests of disturbances, and the lords of problems, following their justification of their exposed game of not meeting with the two members representing the Palestinian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It added: Some believed that Thatcher's tour of the Palestinian camp of Al-baq'ah in Jordan and the fact that Thatcher saw for herself the tragedy of her Balfourite declaration — even from a humane aspect — would give a silver-colored layer of paint to her iron heart. But it became apparent that that paint was political rust which definitely was in accordance with American instructions. The paper pointed out that the British initiatives was not the first of its kind as Thatcher had previously refused to receive the 7-man Arab delegation because it included a Palestinian representative.

The paper expressed its conviction that the British lion is no longer made of paper, but is a puppet manipulated by Uncle Sam; Britain has, in actual fact, become one of the banana republics located near the American gardens. The paper added: Thatcher has proved that London's fog is no longer natural but has become totally American, and that Great Britain has become an American colony in every sense of the word. The paper concluded: As for us, we Arabs, we deserve in actual fact, all that, as we willingly place ourselves in the middle of the American-British sadistic piano. We want the murderer to be a witness and a jury against the victim.

AL-ANBA' wondered if the time is right not to say that the rushers to America and Britain should realize that what is warranted is not the peace of justice but the lowering of all Arab heads under the American and Israeli guillotine to humilation.

The paper warned that "there is a move from axes aimed at forcing Jordan to sit around the table of unilateral recognition and direct negotiations with Israel which will make easier to convince it, particularly when 'Arafat is assassinated in Tunis."

AL-WATAN pointed out that Britain's cancellation of the meeting with Milhim and Al-Khuri is not regrettable because such a meeting, with its British justifications, would have definitely been regarded as a mockery against the Palestinian people's rights represented by the two PLO members. The paper said taht the meeting's cancellation is nothing but a game of brokerage and a gamble being carried out by many sides against the Palestinian people's national issue. The paper pointed out that there is but one price for the game of brokerage and gamble, namely, to give cards to the American-Israeli alliance. The paper reaffirmed that this game is not Thatcher's alone, but an American game in which Palestinian and Arab sides are involved. The paper reaffirmed that Thatcher's game is basically a brokerage in favor of America. The paper expressed its regret that such a brokerage should enjoy Palestinian promises in light of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. The paper concluded: The colonialist British game in the first place, has foiled the basically incorrect policies of some Arab and Palestinian sides vis-a-vis the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Commenting on the sudden British decision, the *KUWAIT TIMES* said that despite our fears of Britain's invitation to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to hold talks with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, we did not at all expect that Thatcher would turn everything upside down at the very last moment. The paper reaffirmed that the sudden British cancellation was as surprising as the astonishment created by Sir Geoffrey Howe's justification for the cancellation. The paper added that Thatcher has harmed Britain's standing in the Arab homeland following her invitation to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for talks with Britain and then her cancellation at the last momemt. The paper stressed that undoubtedly no one is willing to estimate the harm inflicted on the efforts being made for the establishment of Middle East peace by this surprise step.

QATAR

Dailies Criticize U.S. Over Egyptian Plane Affair

GF121634 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 12 Oct 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Oct (WAKH) — American jets forcing of the Egyptian Boeing 737 which was carrying four hijackers of the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* to land in Italy gained prominence in Qatari newspapers today.

The English daily *GULF TIMES* said the latest American action merely confirms Washington's anti-Arabism and its blind commitment to Zionism, given particularly that U.S. forces did not use their same resources to prevent an unprovoked Israeli air raid on Tunisia. Further, the action, far from ending terrorism, is inflaming it: Witness the murderous bomb blast in Arab offices in California yesterday, the *GULF TIMES* said.

What is required from the U.S. is not this kind of action, but rather support for genuine moves towards peace and against violence, which is what the Arabs are advancing. As self-proclamed defenders of freedom the U.S. Government has to consider rationally why some Palestinian people are forced to take desperate measures when they see peaceful methods of negotiation willfully ignored.

The Arabic daily *AL-KHALIJ AL-YAWM* said after this outright air piracy by the U.S. fighter planes are we to wait and hope for justice conferred upon us by the supreme Zionist administration in this universe, or is it kindness that we expect and hope from America, from Israel, and from the imperialist force of the world.

Egypt had acted responsibly and honorably and had sought to deliver the hijackers to the party it believed had the right to take charge of the responsibility to try them, but Egypt had been taken aback when its noble humanitarian and civilized motives were undercut by this ridiculous air piracy carried out by the biggest of world powers.

SAUDI ARABIA

Syrian, Jordanian Premiers to Arrive 20 Oct

GF141628 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i will arrive in Riyadh on Sunday, 20 October. The prime ministers will resume their meetings which began in Jeddah last month under the chairmanship of his Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the national guard.

'UKAZ: U.S. Act Against Egyptian Plane 'Piracy'

GF120536 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Oct 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper *'UKAZ* comments on the U.S. fighter planes' interception of the Egyptian airliner carrying the hijackers of the Italian ship and handing them over to Italy. The newspaper says: This incident has raised many questions all over the world on the ambiguous fate awaiting the region and the crises which might occur there as reaction to acts which no one but the perpetrators have supported.

The newspaper adds: The U.S. Administration has committed an act of piracy against an Egyptian airliner and insists on trying the hijackers and on not accepting the fact that the parties concerned can try them. This reflects the ambiguous U.S. objective behind capturing the hijackers. The newspaper says that this act cannot be approved by international law; besides, no one approves acts of violence, terrorism, and piracy. But what is the remedy? Who has the right to act on any practice which does not only harm one side but the entire region?

'UKAZ continues: If international piracy is rejected, has any country or side the right to protect terrorism or even conceal traces of a crime and justify any acts which harm peace? We do not believe so, nor does anyone else believe so. However, all practices so far raise questions, particularly if we know that the objective of the party which hijacked the Italian ship was to harm the PLO, its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the peace process in the region.

Riyadh Radio Denounces Interception of Egyptian Plane

GF121422 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 12 Oct 85

["News Analysis" by 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad al-Ansari]

[Text] News that the Egyptian plane was intercepted by U.S. aircraft yesterday was followed with great interest by many observers. Reports of the incident were given prominence by the Arab and world news media during the past 24 hours.

Thanks to the efforts of Egyptian authorities and Palestinian officials, the tragedy of the Italian ship *Achille Lauro* ended by allowing the four gunmen to leave Egyptian territory as the main condition and as a price for ending the tragedy of the ship and its 400 passengers. When this took place, the Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers was intercepted by U.S. warplanes which forced the Egyptian plane to land at a NATO air base in Sicily.

The interest shown by the world media in the incident is not due only to the drama that characterized it, but is also prompted by the desire to probe the consequences of such an incident.

The only justification given so far for the U.S. action is that the armed men killed a U.S. citizen who was a passenger aboard the Italian ship — a charge that has not been proven by the facts so far. Indeed, the evidence so far has been that none of the ship's passengers were harmed. The action of the Egyptian Government to bring its influence to end the ship's ordeal was the result of the Egyptians' conviction that all of the ship's passengers were safe and that it had become clear that the armed men had no good reasons to kill any of the ship's passengers after they realized the mistake in the execution of the operation that prompted their hijacking of the ship.

Therefore, what are the motives that prompted the U.S. counter-hijacking of the Egyptian plane, thus bringing back to mind the interception and hijacking of planes in midair — an action unprecedented since 22 October 1956 when French fighters intercepted the plane carrying Ahmed Ben Bella and four other FLN leaders during the Algerian war?

There is more than one reason for the pessimism felt as a result of such an action. The hijacking of planes in midair is a matter almost forgotten by international terrorism, which has become rampant in a number of places after a lapse of about 40 years [as heard] since the aforementioned French action took place. The revival of hijacking in a manner as that by which the Egyptian plane was hijacked will not in the future be out of the reach of any quarter that pursues such methods. It is impossible to predict the dangers that could be created if international terrorists should pursue such methods.

The hijacking of the Egyptian plane and the four armed men took place as the consequences of the Israeli aggression against Tunisia and the destruction of the headquarters of the PLO are still fresh in the minds of the Arab nation and the international community, and the bitterness created by what was then said about the absolute U.S. support for the Israelis was still being felt.

Observers believe that the hijacking of the hijackers and the Egyptian plane that carried them following Egyptian and Palestinian efforts that resulted in the release of the Italian ship and its passengers is likely to escalate violence and undermine efforts to establish peace in the region.

The happiness shown in Israel following the U.S. hijacking of the Egyptian plane and the gunmen aboard it — a happiness expressed by two messages sent by the prime minister of the Zionist entity to the American President and his secretary of state following the counter-hijacking — can be viewed only within the context of the strategic defense alliance between the U.S. Government and the Zionist entity. It appears from recent events that the strategic alliance is no longer an idea over which there has been a great deal of controversy, for its implementation has actually begun. Needless to say, it is this very alliance that prompted the United States to oppose any denunciation by the international community of any Israeli aggression against the Arab nation.

UK Cancellation of Palestinian Meeting Viewed

GF141616 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 14 Oct 85

["News Analysis" by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Muhana]

[Text] Arab circles did not expect Britain to welcome a meeting with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Britain previously had refused to receive an Arab League delegation which included among its members a PLO representative. An Arab League delegation visited France, Moscow, and Washington to explain the dimensions of the Arab issue and to express an urgent desire to achieve peace in the region.

Today, Britain canceled the meeting scheduled between Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, in which the Palestinians are represented by Muhammad Mulhim and Iliya Khuri, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and the Jordanian side represented by Tahir al-Misri, Jordanian foreign minister, and 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, deputy prime minister and minister of education. Two days before this meeting was scheduled to be held, Jewish and Zionist organizations in Britain once again violently opposed the meeting. These organizations were not afraid of the results of this meeting, but were opposed to the idea that British officials would sit with a delegation in which the Palestinians have representatives. British sources had confirmed before the meeting the determination of Mrs Thatcher's government to hold the meeting. It was said that Mrs Thatcher's decision to invite the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was due to the conviction of the British Government that the success of the peace efforts in the region and the achievement of any settlement of the Arab-Israeli struggle through direct negotiations and in a way that maintains the rights of the two sides would be favorable to all the parties involved in the struggle.

Of course the meeting, had it taken place, would have not resulted in an immediate recognition by Britain of the right of the Palestinians to establish an independent state on their soil and would have not resulted in an agreement to force Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied during the war of 1967, Including Jerusalem. It also would not have resulted in British recognition of the legitimacy of the armed Palestinian struggle to liberate their land. Apart from this, it is out of the question that Britain would offer financial aid to the PLO as an indication of its conviction of the legitimacy of Palestinian existence, because he who has nothing can give nothing — the British economy has been declining in recent years and the level of unemployment has been increasing, especially during 1984 and 1985.

Perhaps, there could have been minor gains from the meeting, if held — it would have been a break through the barrier that the Jewish and Zionist organizations have erected between the Palestinians and European officials, as the Jews dominate the various channels of the executive authority in Europe. It was expected that the meeting, if held, would have succeeded in convincing the British Government of the need to hold an international conference on the Palestinian issue, a position which Israel is afraid of and which is rejected by the United States, a strong supporter of the Israeli entity. The recent announcements by the Zionist media that Jordan might abandon its demand to convene an international conference on the Palestinian issue is proof that such a conference has become a horrible nightmare for Israel. This prompted Jordan to issue an official statement strongly denying that it has abandoned this legitimate demand which is based on humanitarianism and justice for all peoples.

The Palestinians had not expected to meet with Geoffrey Howe in the same way as is imagined by the Zionists and Zionist officials; the objective of the Palestinians was to acquaint British public opinion and British politicians with the latest situation and the conditions of the Palestinian people who are facing a breaking point, especially since Britain put forth the first initiative to put Palestinian Arab land at the disposal of the Jews through the declaration made by Arthur James Balfour, Britain's foreign secretary in 1917. This declaration became a document that obliged Britain to offer the Jews political, moral, and financial assistance and to provide Israel with arms to occupy Palestinian land and to expell its legitimate inhabitants and Arabs. Although the Palestinians fully understand that Britain cannot correct its misdoings against the Palestinian Arab people who are still suffering bitterly from them, observers believe that the meeting would have constituted a lesson on what has been and an indication of what is going to be, and would have ended in negative or positive results that would not necessarily be painful for the Jews or profitable for the Palestinians.

UAE

AT-ITTIHAD Criticizes U.S. on Plane Interception

GF120811 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Oct 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 12 Oct (WAM) — UAE press today condemn the air piracy which the United States carried out against the Egyptian airliner which was carrying the hijackers of the Italian ship, and describes it as open defiance of international law and a direct aggression against Egypt's sovereignty.

The press agreed that what the United States did is theepitome of the nature of relations between the leader of imperialism and any other third-world country.

The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* expresses surprise over U.S. President Ronald Reagan's announcement that the United States is proud that the United States carried out the operation alone and his boasting that his fighter planes forced the Egyptian airliner to land in a military base is a heroic act. The paper notes that "the United States insistently asked Egypt to intervene to save the lives of the 550 passengers of the ship and Egypt carried out its human duty."

The newspaper asks: Is Egypt's reward for that to be deceived by an unprecedented blatant air piracy?

In conclusion, *AL-ITTIHAD* warns that to continue to have confidence in the United States is "only a heavy loss for the Arab causes." It also considers anyone colluding with the United States in this trickery and piracy as a partner with it "because the one who acquiesces is like the perpetrator."

AL-BAYAN: U.S. Action Undermines Reagan's Argument

GF130948 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Oct 85 p 1

[Editorial: "State Terrorism"]

[Text] The justifications given by the U.S. Government for the hijacking of the Egyptian civilian plane carrying the four Palestinians accused of hijacking the Italian liner notwithstanding, the U.S. action is by all standards a flagrant act of terrorism that constitutes clear defiance of international law and represents a direct aggression against the sovereignty of Egypt. The action is made more serious by the fact that its perpetrators are not an armed group with limited resources, but a superpower that considers itself the leader of the entire West and has in its arsenal sufficient instruments of death, destruction, and terrorism to annihalate the world 120 times over.

The United States resorting to such terrorist methods to apprehend the four Palestinians accused of hijacking the ship and delaying its journey for 2 or more days refutes all the claims made by President Reagan against what he terms international terrorism and demolishes his arguments to persuade the international community to act against violence — if in his view terrorism becomes legitimate when it is intended to punish an individual or a group, it becomes even more legitimate when the objective is to regain lost rights and a usurped homeland or to save an entire nation from an existing tyranny or imported agents.

It is noteworthy that the flagrant terrorist action was carried out by coordination among a number of states in addition to the United States, and that the aircraft that carried it out took off from a NATO base, while we believed that such action is not part of the tasks of an alliance originally established to defend Western Europe against the "red threat" and not to hijack civilian planes.

One would now expect all the forces that rose with one voice to condemn and denounce the hijacking of the Italian ship to be true to themselves and equally condemn and denounce this new form of terrorism. Credit for innovating this kind of terrorism goes to Israel, which apparently has become the example that the U.S. Government follows in everything.

Mubarak Reacts to U.S. Interception of Airliner

Press Conference 12 Oct

NC121522 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1515 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has declared that Egypt does not collude with anyone. He also declared: When we give our word, we respect it.

In a statement to foreign journalists and correspondents this evening, President Mubarak said: I want to reassure the Egyptian people. As a leadership, we do not act irresponsibly or nervously, but quietly. He continued: We will exercise our full right.

In his statement, President Mubarak gave an account of the hijacking of the Egyptian plane, beginning with Egypt's humane efforts to rescue the Italian cruise liner. He told the journalists: I will tell you the story in full; let each be the judge.

He said: We and Italy are linked by strong friendship. There are trade relations beteen us, as well as relations in other fields, including the arms field. The Italian liner arrived, and some passengers disembarked. It was then hijacked outside Egyptian territorial waters. It sailed in an unknown direction until it reached a point near the Syrian port of Tartus. The Syrian authorities refused to receive the ship to avoid any problems. The ship then returned to Port Said, as we all know.

On that day, I was attending the air defense celebrations on the occasion of the October War anniversary. Following the celebration, the Italian ambassador came with a message from the Italian prime minister asking me to save the lives of 400 passengers. I told the ambassador that we would do our utmost to save the lives of this large number of passengers on board the ship.

President Mubarak continued: Meanwhile, contacts were continuing among the ambassadors concerned with the hijacking of the vessel and its passengers. On the second day, it was reported that the ship was near Port Said but outside Egyptian territorial waters. During that period, I was thinking of the best way to save the lives of 400 people on board, plus the crew members.

Mubarak further said: We contacted the PLO representatives. The situation was not easy at all. We did our utmost to save the lives of those on board. I had a problem: The hijackers refused to leave the ship before we gave them safe passage. But in order to give them safe passage, we had to ensure that no one on board had been killed or injured. If we had had prior knowledge that something had happened on board, whether deaths or injuries, we would have acted differently. There is a way to deal with every situation.

We contacted the ship's captain, who said everyone on board was all right, and that there were no deaths or injuries. The captain did not say this under any kind of pressure.

I told Egyptian officials: You must try to go aboard and learn what the real situation is. They said: We cannot get the passengers off the ship unless we give the hijackers safe passage.

Mubarak went on: In several cases, as in the case of the TWA episode in Beirut, it was possible to save the passengers by letting the hijackers go free. I said: This might be a practical way.

President Mubarak added: We contacted the governments through their ambassadors. Some of them signed petitions [iqrarat] demanding that the lives of the 400 people aboard the ship be saved. They said they had no demands to make of the hijackers. The U.S. ambassador was the only exception. He spoke about the possibility that some would be killed. We considered it important, though, to save those aboard the ship because this was a humanitarian deed. The ship's pilot had said that there were no casualties onboard. We deemed it necessary to go ahead with the rescue of this large number of people because this constituted a great humanitarian deed.

The president went on: The committee and PLO representatives held negotiations. After tough negotiations, we managed to get them to leave the ship. The hijackers surrendered. I believe that this was the only way for them to surrender. The alternative could have possibly been a big military operation which would have claimed victims; those aboard the ship would have been hurt.

Therefore, we decided to go ahead by peaceful means. We decided to send the hijackers to their leaders, who would put them on trial. We waited. After 6 hours, it was said that two people had been killed. Several hours later, they said that the dead were one American man and one Austrian woman.

They said later that they found the Austrian woman alive in a storeroom. I saw that the world had been turned upside down. I had issued an order that the hijackers leave. It is true that the hijackers did not leave for technical and administrative reasons, which I did not know about until that afternoon.

There were complications. The plane was unable to take off. I learned this only when I was given press release a few hours later. Some news agencies began analyzing the sntuation and claimed that Egypt had colluded with the United States.

The president said: We do not collude with anybody, and we do not carry out such stupid actions in cooperation with anyone. When we give our word, we keep it.

President Husni Mubarak said: We said that if there had been any killings or if a crime had been committed, 'Arafat would take the hijackers. 'Arafat said that if a crime had been committed or only a hijacking carried out, he would be prepared to put the perpetrators on trial. U.S. President Reagan approved 'Arafat's remarks.

On this basis, we said: We will send the hijackers to the PLO to try them. I believe that it would have been better and more honorable for the PLO to try them. It would be better if their own country tried them, rather than Italy or any other country; this would generate many problems with retaliation.

Pesident Mubarak added: We said let us give 'Arafat an opportunity for the world to judge if he is serious in what he says or not. I was sure he would have tried them because murder was involved. I was confident of this and the U.S. President approved what I said in one of his statements.

The president continued: Before the plane took off, we contacted Tunisia; after several hours Tunisia gave permission for the plane to land. I do not want to hurt our brothers in Tunisia because they have their own problems.

Yielding to pressure or for other reasons, Tunisia withdrew its permission 45 minutes after the plane, which had been hired from Egyptair, took off. Tunisia is "excused." In the meantime, the plane entered Greek airspace, and we ordered it to return. The plane changed course toward Egypt and signaled that it was returning. I was later notified that unidentified fighter planes intercepted and ordered the Egyptian plane to land in Sicily. This was a strange and regrettable development. I was astonished and said: What state would carry out such an act of piracy? I never imagined that a friendly state would order four jet fighters to take off and intercept an unarmed civilian plane. I learned later that they were American planes. I absolutely do not consider it heroic for four planes to take off and cause this big uproar and propaganda blitz. It is indeed a heroic action that I saved the lives of 400 people and a ship.

Continuing, President Mubarak said: It is extremely regrettable that they forced the Egyptian aircraft to land. This was something unexpected from a friend. The interception took place in Italian airspace. The operation started. I could not imagine that a friendly state like the United States would do such a thing when I was trying to save the United States and Italy the trouble of trying the hijackers by sending them to the PLO for trial. The PLO chairman had promised to put them on trial. Is friendship based on something we do not know about? If Egypt had faced this situation,would it have intercepted an aircraft belonging to a friendly state? This is not a heroic deed.

The president said that if an American has been killed, we condemn the killing. We also disapprove of hijacking or murder. The hijackers would have stood trial before the PLO. This was a test for 'Arafat. I am confident that 'Arafat would have brought them to trial.

President Husni Mubarak said: I am not concerned with what is being said in the United States about the collusion of Egypt and its president in this incident. We know what we are doing. It is extremely regrettable that Dr Kissinger, who had condemned the ship's seizure, made excuses for the hijacking of the Egyptian aircraft. With all respect, these excuses are unacceptable. The United States, to whom we are bound by friendship, should never have sent four jet fighters to intercept an aircraft belonging to a friend. This is a regrettable incident. We are not embarrassed. But how in the world could an aircraft be intercepted? Had I known that the aircraft would be intercepted, I would have changed its route.

The president said: I blame the Italian prime minister,although he is a friend and advocates our cause. However, it is extremely regrettable that he allowed U.S. fighter planes to intercept the Egyptian aircraft in Italian airspace. After approving our rescue of 400 passengers — and we performed a tremendous deed — how could the Italian prime minister allow our aircraft to be intercepted in Italian airspace and then be detained? This kind of action is impermissible under any international law or norm. This is very serious because it would allow any country that suspects an aircraft to intercept it. I do not know how the United States carried out such an act. I am deeply wounded and deeply pained.

President Mubarak then answered a question on whether the purpose of this operation was to wreck the peace process following his recent successful tour which gave a boost to this process. He said: I cannot say this. I have no proof that it was meant to wreck the peace process. However, it obstructs the peace process. I tell our brothers in the U.S. Administration: You understand the psychology of people. This action does not help the peace process at all. On the contrary, it creates several problems and makes it impossible to believe that there is a peace process going on. The truth is that the wound is painful, and has been caused by a friend. I do not know how to describe this interception of a civilian plane. It has wounded me. It is causing us a lot of pain. And why? Is it because we rescued 400 people for them? And should the world be turned upside down for the sake of one person? It is a baffling question. I do not believe that any state in the world will accept it from now on. However, we are learning. When we face another similar operation, we will do as other states: Send the ship away from our territorial waters. However, this time we said: This is a humanitarian act, and we bore the brunt of the consequences.

Asked whether the United State has submitted a justification or a plea to Egypt to overlook this incident for the sake of their common interests, President Mubarak said: The U.S. President later on made good statements in which he hoped that Egypt would overlook this incident. However, can Egypt overlook this episode so easily, especially since it occurred before the whole world, and since we are friends? They intercepted my plane. May God help us to forgive this episode. We will need a long time to forget this painful wound.

The president added: I ask my Egyptian brothers to display reason, patience, and wisdom. This will help solve the problems. Hwoever, I reiterate my pain, sorrow, and the wound that this incident has caused me, although I was only doing a humanitarian act for the whole world.

President Mubarak was asked how much tension there was between Egypt and the United States, and whether Egypt will take action in addition to its condemnation of the U.S. action. He replied: Do not ask me about tension. However, what happened has wounded me, especially after the humanitarian act which I performed to rescue 400 passengers and the ship itself. The operation was difficult. If any other method had been used to rescue them, such as storming the ship, it would have cost the lives of between 100 and 300 people. However, we saved them all with the exception of one who was killed. We did not know what had happened to him. We only knew about him 5 hours after the surrender. The result was that they intercepted our plane. Do the American people accept this?

Pesident Mubarak expressed the hope that this problem would be overcome, adding: However, this will require time.

Responding to a question on the joint military maneuvers to be held with the United States in December, President Mubarak said: I have not yet thought about this matter.

Answering another question on what Egypt could do against the United States, the president said: The United States is a superpower.

Asked if the U.S. actions have cast some shadows on Egyptian-U.S. relations, President Mubarak said: Naturally. They are lukewarm now, and there is some annoyance because of this act. You can see the reaction of the Egyptian people; go and ask them. The people have been wounded and some have expressed their feelings. However, I ask our Egyptian brothers to be patient, to be wise, and to use their heads.

President Mubarak referred to the reaction in the United States and the jubilation which prevailed there. He said: This is not a heroic operation and the United States should not have carried it out.

Responding to a question on whether the detention of the Italian ship in Port Said is connected with the detention of the Egyptian plane, President Mubarak said: An investigation is being conducted on the incident of the liner; we are a state that abides by the law. We are not one that helps terrorism and the hijacking of planes and ships. The investigation is about to be completed and when it is, the ship will immediately sail from Egypt.

Answering a question on possible events, if it is discovered that more than one party was involved in the hijacking of the Italian ship, President Mubarak said: There are universal laws and agreements that govern this issue. We are a party to these commitments, but to save lives, we concurred with the states concerned that we should have an agreement to deal with the people who hijacked the ship. The agreement was to give them a promise and let them leave or solve the problem in another way. We obtained these states' approval and signatures. The United States refused to sign more than a few commitments. Something unpleasant could have happened on board the ship. As long as we knew that no one was killed or wounded, we decided to save the lives of 400 people. This was a humanitarian deed. What happened, however, is that 6 hours later, they found that one person had been killed. We regret and condemn this murder which we cannot support under any circumstances. However, this does not mean that Egypt, which rendered this great humanitarian service outside its territorial waters, deserves what happened to it.

Asked whether he knew how the passenger had been killed, President Mubarak answered: I have no idea how the investigations are going.

To another question on whether Egypt's humanitarian action to rescue the hostages would make it think twice in the future before embarking upon such an action, Persident Mubarak said: By God, had the operation not been humanitarian, we would have never bothered ourselves and gone beyond our territorial waters. Other countries would not have bothered themselves. They would have said: Let the liner go somewhere else, and let's not trouble ourselves over that. But Egypt did not do that.

Continuing, President Mubarak said: The Italian prime minister contacted me when I was attending the air defense celebrations. I told him: Tell Mr Craxi that I will do my utmost. This made me look for a way. We decided to bring two PLO representatives in order to convince the hijackers to leave the ship, especially when we knew that there were neither wunded nor dead on board the ship. Had we known beforehand, our dialogue with them would have been different, or we would have simply said that we could not do anything. We are sorry for that. But this will not prevent us from carrying out any humanitarian action that we might deem necessary — with guarantees.

Asked about the statement released on Wednesday to the effect that the hijackers had left Egypt, after which it transpired that they were still in Cairo, his excellency said: I gave orders for their departure. They told me that the hijackers would leave soon. We faced some technical, political, and administrative difficulties. Three hours after my announcement, I learned that they had not left. We began pursuing another method to have them leave.

The president said: I insisted on sending the hijackers to 'Arafat after I learned that one of the passengers had been killed because 'Arafat himself promised to put them on trial. This was my objective. But with regard to what has been said on the delay and on coordination with the United States, this is not true. I challenge anyone who can submit proof of this. I am not a man who does this kind of thing.

Further Remarks

PM111921 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 11 Oct 85 pp 1, 14

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak: We Released Hijackers Following Ship Captain's Confirmation of Passengers' Safety. President Tells Journalists: We Would Have Taken a Different Stand Had We Known About Passenger Death; Hijackers Have Actually Left Egypt and We Moved To Save 400 Passengers"]

[Text] In a statement he made to journalists following a plenary meeting with NDP party leaders yesterday President Husni Mubarak spoke about the internal and external situations. He said: Egypt has released the four Palestinian hijackers after receiving categorical assurances from the Italian ship's captain that none of the passengers had been killed or hurt. The president added: We consented to negotiate with the hijackers after the Italian and West German ambassadors agreed on [Egypt] receiving the hijackers and sending them abroad, in order to save the 400 passengers on board the ship and avoid its being blown up by the hijackers. The president announced that the hijackers have actually left Egypt for an unknown destination, probably Tunisia.

Replying to questions regarding the statements whether by the Italian ambassador or by some American sources regarding the killing of an American passenger off the Syrian coast, President Mubarak said: When we negotiated with the hijackers we had no information regarding the death of a passenger; this information was heard only 5 hours after receiving the hijackers who, in the meantime, had actually left.

The president said that the captain had said in the voice recording that nobody on the ship had been killed or wounded. Had he said otherwise, we would have had a different view and acted differently on the matter. The reason why the captain later said that one person was murdered and thrown overboard is incomprehensible.

The president said: When we released the passengers — that is, when we made the effort to release them and the ship — we had in mind what happened to the TWA airliner in Beirut. The U.S. Government had then asked for the 400 hostage passengers to be saved, and Nabih Birri intervened and negotiated on behalf of the plane hijackers who were later released after one U.S. marine had been killed.

The president added: We have said from the beginning that such incomprehensible, illogical, and inhuman actions would undermine the great sympathy the world has shown following the Israeli raid on Tunis. I had advised our Palestinian friends that they must exploit this sympathy.

Speaking about the Israeli raid on Tunis, the president said: When I heard the initial news about this raid, I imagined that it was Libya that had carried out the raid on Tunis, although I am certain that Libyan pilots would not accept carrying out such a raid on the brotherly Tunisian people. I then thought that Libyan aircraft probably flown by some of the Syrian pilots in Libya had carried out the raid. In fact I was greatly concerned over what was happening to the Palestinians because on the same day Syria was killing hundreds of Palestinians in Tripoli.

For this reason I immediately called a meeting that day, and we decided to openly condemn the aggression. We refused to receive the Israeli delegation for the negotiations on Tabah despite the importance of the issue. We were later surprised by President Reagan's statement and his declaration that responding to terror with terror is a legitimate right. I sent two message to President Reagan, one oral and the other written. I was later glad to know that the whole world condemned the Israeli operation against Tunisia. The condemnation went as far as the Italian prime minister declining to visit Israel. The U.S. stand changed somewhat in the face of the reaction and, therefore, no U.S. veto was used against the Security Council resolution condemning Israel.

The president said: If we look at the Arab reaction we unfortunately find that some of the Arab countries were content with a slight condemnation. As for Libya, it said nothing in condemnation of the operation or anything against the United States and Israel. A few days later Libya began insulting the Arabs and demanding full Arab unity and that UN headquarters be from New York to another location. This despite the fact of the military arsenal it possesses and that it has between 500 and 600 aircraft, just like a superpower. Finally suffice it to say that the entire Palestinian leadership has praised the Egyptian role, which no other Arab country played.

As regards the extremist demands reiterated in the circles of the opposition parties calling for the severance of relations with Israel, expulsion of the ambassador, suspension of Camp David, refusal to sell oil to Israel, reconsideration of relations with the United States, and revival of the joint defense pact with the Arab states, I respect the views of others but, as the man responsible for the people, I say that we are passing through a stage which is different from past stages. We make careful calculations before making any decision. Our decisions do not stem from emotions or convulsions. We always opt for what is in the best interest of the people and what is not against our interests.

As regards Camp David and its abrogation or suspension, such a decision is what Israel wants; but we see that treaty as the first specific Israeli commitment and acknowledgment of the Palestinian people's rights. Furthermore, most Arab states are willing to hold direct negotiations under any umbrella, be it an international conference or anything else. Regardless of all that, we insist on peace and we respect charters and treaties because they do not undermine Egypt's sovereignty or independence.

The president added that Egypt has not withdrawn from the joint defense pact with the Arab states, although this pact has not been applied in word or spirit by the other states. The proof, he said, is that, as we can see, Syria and Libya are helping Iran against Iraq, and Syria is swallowing up Lebanon. So if that kind of talk is meant to involve the Egyptian forces on any of these fronts then I repeat that we do not send our forces anywhere. I reaffirm that our decisions are made in accordance with our country's circumstances. I do not get my people or country involved under false slogans if we are not perfectly convinced of such decisions.

The president then spoke about his trip to Washington. He said that he had held talks with the U.S. Administration on the Palestinian question and the need to hold an international conference, noting that there is nothing to fear from such a conference or from Soviet participation in it. We, he added, supported King Husayn's call for a conference under an international umbrella and we also discussed bilateral relations and debt installments, and we really found President Reagan and the U.S. Administration more understanding and more flexible on these two main issues.

The president said that in France he discussed with President Mitterrand a number of important issues and that President Mitterrand was convinced of the Egyptian viewpoint, noting that there was nothing wrong with Egypt's line. He added: I asked him to contribute to the process of holding a meeting between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the EC, and indeed the French president did contact the EC and it agreed to meet with the delegation. We also discussed with France the problems pertaining to debt installments, and the fact that they were to a large extent solved.

Receives Reagan Message

NC131712 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Nicholas Veliotes, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, at his office this morning. Veliotes handed him a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Extremely Indignant'

NC141453 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1410 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA) — In a statement to journalists following his meeting with party [as received] leaders in Al-Salam city today, President Husni Mubarak emphasized that he had decided to send the hijackers of the Italian liner to be tried by the PLO because he felt that procedure to be more convenient than to send them to Italy or to the United States to stand trial there. Mubarak pointed out that that decision was made to preserve peace and to avoid violence and terrorism.

President Mubarak added that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would have been responsible to the whole world had he failed to punish them. If 'Arafat failed to punish them and an incident or act of terrorism took place after that, the whole world would be justified in taking all necessary action to deal with a further act of terrorism.

President Mubarak added: The hijackers are now being tried before a non-Palestinian court, and I pray to God that no further violence takes place. However, Mubarak added, I am afraid this will not put an end to violence. Had the Italians and the Americans not taken such a step, they would have avoided many future problems.

President Mubarak said that 'Arafat had expressed his readiness to put the hijackers on trial and that Reagan had also declared his acceptance of this in a statement he broadcast to the whole world. He said that apart from this statement, there had been no communication between him and President Reagan in this regard.

Asked about the contents of U.S. President Reagan's message to him, which the U.S. ambassador delivered to the foreign ministry yesterday, President Mubarak said: Frankly, I have not read this message yet, because I am extremely indignant.

Asked whether he has received any explanation from the White House or the U.S. State Department about the recent U.S. action, President Mubarak said: I have not yet received any appropriate apology. This apology is expected by all Egyptians. It is not a personal apology to me.

Asked about Dr Usamah al-Baz' statement on U.S. television yesterday in which he expressed the hope that this incident would be a passing cloud and that relations would return to normal, President Mubarak said: I hope these clouds will pass. However, there are different kinds of clouds. There are heavy clouds, there are dark clouds, and there are light clouds. I hope we will reach a stage in which these clouds will disappear.

Receives Call From King Husayn

NC121031 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1015 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA) — His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan contacted President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by telephone last night, Friday. During the call, they exchanged views on the events surrounding the Italian ship incident and on current developments.

Meets Political Group

NC111525 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting with the political group this morning for well over 2 hours. Attending the meeting were People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi, consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and NDP secretary general, Safwat al-Sharif, information minister, Ahmad Rushdi, interior minister, and Dr Mustafa al-Faqi, official at the President's Office, were also present.

To Meet With Opposition

NC132048 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2020 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA) — MENA has learned that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will meet with the heads of the opposition parties next Wednesday to discuss the recent U.S. stand. They will also discuss the incident of U.S. warplanes intercepting the Egyptian civilian aircraft that was carrying the hijackers of the Italian liner and forcing it to change its route.

MENA also learned that the meeting will take place at the request of the heads of the opposition parties. The request was made while the parties were reviewing the U.S. position this evening.

The heads of the opposition parties decided not to become involved in any demonstrations. They expressed their approval of [word indistinct] of the Egyptian stand, affirming that unity concerns everyone in these critical times.

MENA also learned that the heads of the opposition parties have decided to call on the People's Assembly to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the recent U.S. stand.

Prime Minister 'Ali Lufti Views U.S. Action

LD151041 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0831 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Oct (KUNA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi said in interview published here that the Egyptian people have been wounded by the fact that U.S. warplanes intercepted an Egyptian airliner and forced it to land in a NATO base because "this U.S. act was by a friend, not a foe, and is an act which we reject."

He pointed out in an interview with *AL-SIYASAH* that the Egyptian Government's statement was frank and clear regarding the condemnation of that act and the regret of the Egyptian Government that the United States had undertaken it. He added that Egypt dealt with the problem of the Italian ship *Achille Lauro*, which was hijacked by a Palestinian group for 2 days before it released the passengers, from "a purely humanitarian consideration, particularlyas — and we should stress this — not one Egyptian was on board." He added that since no Egyptian passenger was on board Egypt could have "ignored the fate of the ship and those on board; but this is not, however, an Egyptian principle because Egypt takes into consideration the humanitarian principles."

He pointed out that Egypt was expecting thanks from the countries whose citizens were on board the ship and "not this treatment from the United States and to some extent Italy, which has started to cooperate with us and deported [as received] Brother Abu al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front."

The Egyptian premier dealt in his interview with events that preceded the act of interception of the Egyptian airliner by U.S. warplanes, and pointed out that events started to deteriorate as soon as the Egypt Air airliner left Cairo. "It was a civilian aircraft carrying a small number of passengers, in addition to the four hijackers and the two Palestinian leaders who had taken part in the negotiations."

He added that "the airliner followed its ordinary route to Tunis after having obtaining landing permission in the Tunisian territories. But suddenly Tunisia withdrew its permission and the airliner started returning to Cairo."

Al-Baz Says Peace Process Suffered 'Setback'

NC140616 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, has said that the peace process has suffered a setback. The credibility of Israel and the United States as partners in the peace process has been damaged after Israel's raid on PLO headquarters in Tunis and the interception of an Egyptian airliner by American planes.

Dr al-Baz added: We should wait for the atmosphere to clear. We are convinced that this wave of violence can be eliminated only through peace. He spoke against America's view that the PLO was responsible for hijacking the Italian ship. He said: All our information indicates that the PLO opposed this operation.

Dr al-Baz stressed that despite the depth of Egyptian-U.S. relations, the Egyptian people were hurt and angered by America's unlawful and illegal action against the Egyptian airliner.

U.S. Ambassador 'Deeply Sorry' for Interception

NC132119 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2105 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA) — U.S., Ambassador in Cairo Nicholas Veliotes has stated that the United States feels deeply sorry for the interception of the Egyptian aircraft which was carrying the four Palestinians who hijacked the Italian liner.

In a statement broadcast over Voice of America this evening, the ambassador said that the U.S. hesitated before performing the interception operation, because it is not in the interest of the United States to infuriate the Egyptian Government or people. He added that Egypt had rendered a splendid service by ending the hijacking of the Italian passenger ship without further loss in human life.

Meets Foreign Minister

NC111802 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1742 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veliotes at 1845 today at Dr 'Abd al-Majid's request. The meeting was attended by U.S. Embassy Minister Plenipotentiary [name indistinct]. The recent developments concerning the hijacking of the Italian ship and the interception of the Egyptian airliner were discussed during the 20-minute meeting.

PLO'S Al-'Abbas Thanks Government for Efforts

NC131125 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1112 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Oct (MENA) — PLO higher executive committee member Muhammad Abu al-'Abbas has expressed his thanks for the Egyptian Government's efforts. He also noted his appreciation for the major role Egypt played in putting an end to the hijacking of the Italian ship, safeguarding the lives of its passengers and crew, and conducting intensive contacts with the Italian Government to allow him and his colleague to leave Rome.

Abu al-'Abbas thanked Egypt through the Egyptian Ambassador in Yugoslavia Shukri Fu'ad, who was at the Belgrade airport to receive him on his arrival from Rome last night.

British Send Thanks for End to Hijacking

NC131926 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1905 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] London, 13 Oct (MENA) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has sent a message to the Egyptian Government in which he expresses his gratitude for Egypt's efforts to end the incident of the hijacked ship under what he described as extremely difficult circumstances.

In another development, commenting on the release of Muhammad 'Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti said that he believes it would have been dangerous to prolong a situation that created tension between Rome and Cairo. In his statement, broadcast by London radio [as received] this evening, Andreotti said that he will meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Brussels on Tuesday.

Ship Hijacking Discussed With U.S. Congressman

NC131539 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1355 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub today received U.S. Congressman (Milton Marx), who is currently visiting Cairo.

They discussed relations between Egypt and the United States and Egypt's humanitarian action to rescue 400 passengers on board the hijacked Italian ship *Achille Lauro.* Dr al-Mahjub affirmed that Egypt intervened to save the passengers because of its humanitarian and international commitments, and that this stand deserves appreciation.

They also discussed the Egyptian people's indignation over the U.S. stand toward the Egyptian airliner, which was forced by U.S. fighter planes to land in Sicily. They also talked about the need to go ahead with the peace process and to bolster this process by all means in order to stop further terrorism and violence.

Achille Lauro Captain's Detention Denied

NC111630 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1614 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA) — A Rome radio correspondent has denied a report which Israeli radio attributed to him. According to Israeli radio, the Italian reported that Egyptian authorities had detained the captain of the Italian liner *Achille Lauro.* He maintained that all he said was that Egyptian officials have conducted interrogations on the hijacking of the vessel.

Arab Lawyers Association To Defend Hijackers

NC131451 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1415 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA) — MENA has learned that the general secretariat of the Arab Lawyers Association has decided that the association will defend the four Palestinians who carried out the hijacking of the Italian ship *Achille Lauro.*

Faruq Abu 'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Association, has stated that the defense will include senior Arab lawyers, Italian lawyers, and international law organizations that have close links with the association.

Egyptair To Protest U.S. Interception of Plane

NC131729 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1654 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA) — Engineer Muhammad Fahim Rayyan, chairman of the board of directors of the Egyptair company, has stated that Egyptair will submit a protest to the International Civil Aviation Organization and all the other international organizations responsible for civil aviation; the protest will be on the interception of the Egyptian airliner, which he described as a violation of international law.

Rayyan said that any attempt to threaten the safety of civil aviation should be deplored by all civil aviation companies and authorities in the world. He affirmed that passengers on civil aircraft flying in international airspace should be protected by international law.

Rayyan made this statement after receiving the crew of the Egyptian plane which returned from Rome today. The plane was intercepted by U.S. jet fighters and forced to land at an airbase in Sicily last Thursday.

Cairo Students Protest U.S. Interception

NC121317 Paris AFP in English
1313 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, Oct 12 (AFP) — Egyptian police clashed today with 3,000 students who were protesting the interception by U.S. warplanes of an Egyptian aircraft carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro.*

Witnesses said the students, demonstrating at Cairo University, came up against several hundred police in riot gear and carrying clubs. Students threw stones and police responded with tear gas grenades and baton charges.

Some of the protesters shouted, "Mubarak, we're sick of humiliation." Others denounced the Camp David accords of 1978 with Israel, brokered by the United States. An Israeli flag was burned.

The Egyptian Boeing 737 which was diverted to Sicily by U.S. jets Thursday night, while carrying the hijackers to Tunisia after their surrender, was flown to Rome last night. Four young Arabs have been charged in Italian court with the hijack, while some or all of the 17 Egyptians — crew, diplomats and security men — and two Palestinian officials who had accompanied the four were taken to the Egyptian Academy of Fine Arts in Rome.

Today's clashes in Cairo took place not far from the Israeli Embassy, where security was considerably tightened with more than 100 policemen standing guard outside. The Israeli Embassy building is at the end of the University Bridge, near the Cairo Zoo.

Near the U.S. Embassy, security was also stepped up today, with eight truckloads of police — about 160 men — parked a few hundred meters away.

Media Denounce U.S. Interception of Plane

NC121639 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Commentary by Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb]

[Text] Judging from past and current events in the Middle East, terrorism has always spawned counterterrorism. This cycle has intensified until it reached a new peak with the hijacking of an Egyptian civilian airliner by U.S. fighter planes.

This incident is important because it raises certain questions which world public opinion must consider and which need an objective answer. These questions are: Has hijacking civilian planes by organizations and individuals progressed to the point that they are hijacked by jet fighters on official and public orders from ruling political leaders? Can what happened to the Egyptian civilian plane become a new international practice used by any given state for its own goals? Do the statements supporting and praising the hijacking of the Egyptian plane represent support for a new precedent allowing any state to send fighter planes to hijack another country's civilian airliner? This could be because the airliner is carrying people it wants to apprehend and try for certain reasons, because the plane is carrying passengers it suspects plan an operation against it, or because this plane is carrying contraband.

The truth is that if the skies have become a place for all states to demonstrate their bellicosity, we would be returning to the era of piracy. Each state would then be obliged to send a squadron of fighter aircraft with each civilian plane in order to protect it.

The hijacking of the Egyptian civilian plane is no longer an incident that concerns only Egypt and the United States. It has become an international issue concerning the very life of each individual on earth.

In this regard, we will not deal with several Egyptian reservations about the U.S. operation, which began with the U.S. Administration's evaluation of the decision to release the hijackers of the Italian cruise liner and ended with President Reagan ordering the hijack of the Egyptian plane. We will currently disregard all this in order to pose a question that nags everyone: In whose interests are the current events in the Middle East?

In the current melee, some people have forgotten President Mubarak's frequent warnings that any delay in settling the Middle East crisis will only lead to increased terrorism; this in turn will endanger the region's security and stability. In light of the current events, there is no doubt that the Egyptian leadership has been basing its warnings on a real and objective understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We believe that time has proved Cairo's every word on terrorism to be true. Egypt has strongly and clearly denounced all terrorist and counterterrorist operations. It has appealed to everyone for self-restraint because violence breeds only violence.

Regrettably, those who are bewailing the expansion of violence and loudly calling for its eradiction are not making any real effort to promote peace. Suffice it to say, when the PLO adopted the slogan of land in exchange for peace, Israel's reply was to bomb the PLO headquarters in Tunis. U.S. jet fighters then hijacked a civilian airliner because it was carrying four Palestinians who were going to be tried by the PLO for hijacking the Italian ship.

The circle of terrorism is expanding. Its flames are ready to devour anyone drawing near. It is the duty of the internationul community to do everything possible to extinguish this fire.

Egypt was the first Arab state to call for peace and insist on it. Egypt realized that peace is the way of the future and a guarantee for stability and reconstruciton. The PLO also declared its sincere desire to fully shoulder the responsibilities of peace following restoration of their land.

Without support for the peace process, all acts become meaningless and a waste of time and effort.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Commentary

NC120015 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2250 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA) — *AL-JUMHURIYAH* has strongly condemned the interception of an Egyptian civil airliner by U.S. fighters. The Egyptian plane was carrying the hijackers of the Italian ship. The paper declares: Regardless of the justifications, this incident is viewed as serious and as a flagrant violation of international agreements and laws. It is no less grave than the terrorist acts and violence committed by radical groups. This threatens to engulf the Middle East in a sea of terrorism created by states and organizations.

In a commentary to be published on Saturday, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* notes that the world understands why the Palestinians must use any means, whatever they may be, to recover their lost rights. Out of despair, the Palestinian people have turned to all sorts of methods. They have done so after every door was slammed in their face while they, like the other peoples of the world, were trying to establish their own independent state within secure and recognized borders. The paper writes: If this must be defined as terrorism, it is a type of terrorism which seeks justice.

The paper adds that no one can understand the positions of states that practice terrorism. The attempt by Israel and the United States to retaliate against terrorism with greater terrorism can only be viewed as an escalation of the situation. It is a violation of the principles of justice, and a refusal to recognize the rights of oppressed peoples.

AL-JUMHURIYAH condemns the other Arabs who aid and abet state terrorism. The paper refers to Tunisia's position and its cooperation with the United States in hijacking an Egyptian plane — something which the official White House spokesman has praised. The paper describes Tunisia's behavior as incomprehensible collusion and as a premeditated violation of national commitments.

Voice of the Arabs

NC112308 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2047 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Amin Basyuni commentary]

[Excerpts] Two of the most significant characteristics of Egypt's policy are its clarity and honesty. This stems from the fact that it is based on firm and established principles that form Egypt's convictions and its awareness of its role and responsibility in the Arab region and in the world at large. It is a courageous policy that calls a spade a spade and always supports what is right. This comes at a time when others prefer to remain silent. Egypt's attempt to follow a clear policy and to always dot the i's and cross the t's is what prompts it to shed light on some strange reports that tried to raise questions about the incident involving the Italian ship and the later interception of an Egyptian airliner.

Although the actual events are completely clear to the Arab and international public; although Egypt voiced its opinion and positions at every step; and although Egypt has received expressions of appreciation from world leaders for its efforts and their praise for its humanitarian and civilized behavior in saving the lives of 500 passengers in real danger — despite all this, we have been surprised by strange reports that have tried to sound a sour note or even raise some strange questions. Let us ask: What is the purpose of these notes? Are they an attempt by some to evade the responsibility they themselves assumed? Are they trying to cover their tracks with this smokescreen? Is it an attempt by others who are used to shouting from behind microphones while keeping silent about any serious effort to exercise their favorite hobby, which is to cause problems and fish in troubled waters?

Whatever their purpose may be, we will review these reports and then leave it up to the Arab public to discover their goals. A report from Tunis attributed to a high-ranking diplomatic source, who preferred to remain anonymous, tried to depict as ambigous the Egyptian authorities' position on the way in which the hijackers of the Italian ship were taken out of Egypt. How? The source claimed that the PLO had asked to keep the hijackers in Egypt for trial, while the Egyptian authorities insisted on deporting them. The same diplomatic source then claimed that if the Egyptian authorities wanted to rid themselves of the predicament posed by the hijackers, why did they want to get Tunisia involved? We do not understand. Is this source relying on the short memory of the Arab and international public while making these claims — although the incident is still fresh and everyone remains aware of its details? If Egypt did not want to get involved in the problem from the outset, there was no reason for it to do so. After all, the ship was hijacked on the high seas outside Egyptian territorial waters. When it returned and approached Egyptian territory, it was still outside Egyptian waters. It would have been easy for Egypt not to get involved in this incident, and no one would have blamed it. However, the states with citizens on board the hijacked vessel asked Cairo to intervene to secure the release of their people. Tunisia's agreement to accept the plane containing the hijackers, and the PLO's agreement to receive the hijackers encouraged Egypt to play this part. The PLO sent two of its members to accompany the hijackers to Tunisia, where they were to be put on trial, as the PLO had publicly condemned the hijacking of the Italian ship.

The Tunisian source has unsuccessfully attempted to deny Tunisia's earlier agreement to accept the plane with the hijackers in order to justify its sudden refusal to allow the aircraft to land. If this source wants to persist in its denial to cover up a sudden evasion of responsibility, we will read him a report carried by AFP today. It says, and we quote: A responsible Tunisian source admitted today that the Tunisian authorities unexpectedly refused to allow the plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian ship to land in Tunisia yesterday. This decision was made at the last minute.

We do not think that this explicit AFP report requires any comment. The first Tunisian source tried to avoid responsibility and hint that Tunisia did not give the plane carrying the hijackers permission to land. If this source wants to repeat its claim, we will ask him about the thanks which the U.S. official spokesman extended to Tunisia for its positive contribution to solving the problem of the hijacked Italian ship. Why would the United States thank Tunisia if not for its readiness to receive the plane in order to end the crisis involving the Italian vessel and bring about the release of its 500 passengers?

We now come to a second report, which was criculated by the trumpets of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The colonel kept completely silent when Israeli planes passed through Libyan airspace on their way to Tunisia to attack PLO headquarters, cause a large number of Palestinian and Tunisian casualties, and violate Tunisian sovereignty. This colonel never has anything to say in the face of disaster. When the situation demands serious and courageous action, he uses his media to claim that Cairo has remained silent about America's interception of the Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers. As usual, he tried to explain his own invention. He said that Egypt's alleged silence was proof of complicity in and support for what happened.

It is not Egypt, O Colonel, which remains silent and does not courageously speak the truth. Perhaps you will remember that you were the one who had nothing to say when Israeli aircraft flew over your country on their way to attack your brothers. However, Egypt's voice was reverberating throughout the world, condemning the raid and stressing that terrorism will only breed more terrorism.

Once again we say that Egypt's positions are always crystal clear, because they are based on a clear policy and on firm and established principles. Egypt wants peace and makes sincere efforts to achieve it, as it believes that peace is the only way to close the door to terrorism.

Cairo Radio

NC131610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
240 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Commentary by ‘Abd al-‘Azim Hammad]

[Text] What was the United States trying to prove by ordering its warplanes to intercept an Egyptian passenger plane, which was carrying the hijackers of the Italian ship, and forcingit to land in Italy? According to official U.S. statements, the United States has finally proved its capability to use military force against terrorists, and has also proved that terrorists will not escape justice. The U.S. theories are probably incorrect. Intercepting an Egyptian civilian plane with U.S. jet fighters is not a way to combat terrorism. It is a blatant violation of international law and incompatible with friendly U.S.-Egyptian relations. The United States could have actually used force against terrorism by conducting an armed operation against the hijackers of the ship while in international waters; this would have been prior to the usccessful Egyptian efforts to rescue the lives of more than 400 hostages.

Why did the United States not strike against terrorism and terrorists at that time? Such an act would have been considered legitimate and the United States would have received deserved congratualtions. The United States did not use force against the hijackers on the high seas because they feared that innocent people might have been injured. That is why the United States is incapable of using force against terrorism, in the true sense of the phrase, and not in the sense of intercepting civilian planes of a friendly state.

This American inability has been repeatedly in evidence, most recently in the hijacking of the plane in Beirut. At that time, the United States knew for certain that one of the passengers aboard the U.S. plane had been killed. Therefore, the interception of the Egyptian civilian plane does not prove that the United States has finally used force against terrorism. The United States has succeeded in showing something else which can only be described as negative.

The United States has proved that it does not understand human psychology, or at least that it ignores these pyschological factors when weighing the pros and cons during its decision-making process. In this action, the United States, as a superpower, has also demonstrated that it can stoop to scoring public relations points, even at the expense of genuine long-term interests. They are willing to score points even through unprecedented acts and violations of laws, while claiming to implementing them. The only profit gained from the hijacking incident was the rescue of the passengers. Egypt managed to rescue them alone very skillfully, as the Italian foreign minister pointed out. The only possible benefit from this incident was to allow the PLO to try those who have distorted its legitimate national struggle, to discover their motives, and to identify the masterminds. However, the United States spoiled this. A PLO trial would have sufficed to prevent similar incidents in the future. We believe that preventing such future incidents will both help combat terrorism and give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. However, all these issues were not considered by the U.S. decisionmaker.

‘Abd al-Majid on Jordanian-Palestinian-UK Talks

NC131847 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Dr ‘Ismat ‘Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has commented on the meeting between the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and British officials. He said: Egypt considers this meeting a constructive step in the right direction. He added: This step supports the moves toward the just and comprehensive peace that we all seek.

Sudanese Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

NC120924 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli Daf‘allah arrived in Cairo this morning on a 1-day visit to Egypt. Dr Daf‘allah was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Dr ‘Ali Lutfi, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, various other ministers, and senior state officials.

Official reception ceremonies were held for the distinguished guest. The Egyptian and Sudanese prime ministers are scheduled to hold a round of talks today. President Mubarak will receive the Sudanese prime minister this afternoon.

Talks Begin 12 Oct

JN121836 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1755 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (SUNA) — The first round of Sudanese-Egyptian talks headed by Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli Daf‘allah and Egyptian Prime Minsiter Dr Lutfi began here this afternoon and lasted 2 hours. Dr al-Jazuli, who arrived here this morning, said the talks dealt with all aspects of Sudanese-Egyptians relations. He said: There was not enough time to hold detailed discussions. However, we discussed integration, cultural exchange, and foreign policy. We also discussed improving economic relations and cultural exchange within the framework of integration.

The prime minister added that the Egyptian side was convinced of Sudan's view regarding reconstruction of the integration structure in order to make it more effective and positive. He indicated that the discussions on integration centered on the agricultural field and the exchange of products between the two countries.

In a similar statement, Dr ‘Ali Lutfi expressed pleasure at receiving Al-Jazuli and praised his acceptance of the invitation to visit Egypt which he made upon his appointment as Egyptian prime minister. He explained that the two sides talked frankly about various aspects of bilateral relations. He said the two sides stressed that these relations are based on historical, geographical, and cultural bonds and cannot be harmed. They also emphasized that these relations do not depend on individuals and will continue in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

The prime minister described the talks as very successful and fruitful. He said the Sudanese side affirmed its commitment to the continuation of integration between the two countries. Thus, following these talks, integration will become more active and stronger than before in the interest of the two peoples. He indicated that there was a period of relative calm in the march toward integration which lasted for 2 or 3 months.

Ghali Meets Yugoslav Ambassador in Cairo

NC131504 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1435 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with the Yugoslav ambassador in Cairo. They made an overall review of the latest developments and incidents in the Middle East, particularly with respect to the Palestinian issue. During their meeting, both Egypt and Yugoslavia agreed to coordinate their moves with respect to topics related to the Nonaligned Movement. They also discussed their future activity in light of the resolutions adopted by the nonaligned conference held recently in Luanda, Angola.

Announcements on Latest War Operations

'Maritime Target' Hit 15 Oct

JN151600 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1550 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Pursuing the course of continuous destruction of the enemy's resources, and in implementation of our legitimate right to deprive the enemy of any means that help it in pursuing its war of aggression against our country, our valiant hawks of the air carried out a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1345 [1045 GMT] today. After scoring an accurate and effective hit thanks to their reputed courage and dexterity, our hawks of the air returned safely with their planes to the homeland, under God's protection.

[Dated] 15 October 1985

13-14 Oct Activities

JN141726 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Communique No 1,988 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 14 October 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces, with all the loftiness and might of Iraq, stand in defense of the homeland's sovereignty and its people's security, destroying all means that feed aggression and materializing this with the power and superiority they have over the remnants of the criminal Khomeyniite clique.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In implementation of our firm policy to deprive the Iranian regime of its economic resources and in execution of our decision to keep its oil installations out of operation so long as it continues its hostile policy toward our country, our Air Force planes launched a new destructive raid on Khark Island at 1240 [0940 GMT] today. After carrying out their duty with high competence, our valiant eagles returned safely to base. Our responsibility toward our people and country as well as toward the cause of peace makes it incumbent on us to destroy all the vital targets which the criminal Iranian regime uses to continue the war. We derive support from Almighty God.

2. Several of our forward formations in the East Basra III Army Corps sector delivered accurate artillery strikes against enemy positions, gun emplacements, and vehicles, killing or wounding a number of personnel, destroying one 120-mm mortar and two infantry postiions, and burning two vehicles and one ammunition dump. Ambulances were seen evacuating the enemy losses.

3. Three enemy troops were killed and others were wounded in the V Army Corps northern sector. One vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun was destroyed and one ammunition dump was burned in the East Maysan IV Army Corps sector.

4. One enemy machinegun and one infantry position were destroyed and one ammunition dump was burned in the II Army Corps central sector. Those manning the machinegun were killed. One vehicle and one ammunition dump were destroyed in the East Tigris VI Army Corps sector.

5. The forces of the criminal enemy shelled the suburbs of Mandali with long-range artillery.

6. Fleeing the oppression of the regimed ruling Iran, fresh groups of Iranian military personnel defected to our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 October 1985

12-13 Oct Activities

JN131750 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Communique No 1,987 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 13 October 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. So that Iraq and its people continue to be glorious, our valiant Armed Forces, the pride of both Iraq and the Arab nation, continue their determination to humiliate the despotic Khomeyniite clique, which lacks responsibility and honor and which has departed from the framework of sound international relations and both humanitarian and ethical principles.

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Along the path of constant implementation of our people's decision to blockade the Iranian regime's supplies so long as it insists on maintaining a state of war with our country, our heroic Air Force planes launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coasts at 2215 [1915 GMT] yesterday. After hitting their target accurately and effectively, the heroic eagles of the air returned safely with their aircraft, praised be God.

At 1410 today our valiant eagles of the air carried out another successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coasts. After scoring accurate and effective hits, they returned safely with their aircraft, protected by God.

Iraq's fist will continue, with the power of truth, to tighten the noose around the neck of the regime of charlatans, vagabonds, and backward. It is from God that we seek help. He is the best helper.

2. A heroic force advanced deep inside the Iranian enemy's front in the I Army Corps northern sector. With great courage and meticulous performance, it quickly captured three enemy person-

nel, brought them back as prisoners, and returned safely to base. Be blessed, you strong men. May God grant us success in scoring one victory after another over the despotic Khomeyniite clique. Four enemy personnel were killed and two vehicles were damaged elsewhere in the same sector.

3. According to precise planning and direction and with faithful and brave hearts that pledged to be [word indistinct] the filth of the heretic rulers of Iran, a heroic force carried out a bold assault against the enemy's forward positions in the East Tigris III Army Corps sector, inflicting large losses. Confirmed losses amounted to seven dead, one raft burned, and a quantity of serviceable weapons and equipment captured. The force returned safely and triumphantly to base after carrying out its duty, praise be to God. May you live long, O valiant soldiers — commanders, officers, and other ranks. Long live Iraq both mighty and honored.

4. An enemy force larger than an infantry company, supported by artillery, managed to approach our position in the V Army Corps northern sector. The brave soldiers of truth confronted it with all types of weapons, silenced the enemy guns, and inflicted massive losses. The rest of the force fled. May God bless, cavaliers of the heroic V Army Corps.

5. Fleeing the hell in which the Iranian people are living, several Iranian civilians, including school students, defected to our forward units on the battlefronts. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

6. The clique of charlatanism and jugglery ruling Iran shelled the city of Al-'Uzayr with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 October 1985

11-12 Oct Actions

JN121710 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Communique No 1,986 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 12 October 1985]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The soldiers of Iraq continue to deal destructive blows to the Shu'ubist [anti-Arab] aggressors and their economic establishments.

The following is a roundup of operations for last night and today:

1. At 0640 [0340 GMT] today our heroic naval units launched a surprise, destructive attack on the extremely important Bahrgan oil field, accurately hitting their targets and setting them on fire. Having carried out their mission with their well-known courage, the lions of the sea returned to their bases with their units, carrying with them the glad news of victory, praise be to God. This is further proof for the Iranian rulers that the only way out of their dilemma is to opt for peace.

God bless the naval forces — commanders, officers, and other ranks. God be praised for He is the supporter of the faithful.

2. A brave force of our forward units raided enemy positions in the II Army Corps central sector using all their weapons and supported by artillery fire. The force stormed enemy positions and opened heavy fire, killing six, wounding many more, and destroying eight ammunition dumps and one 81-mm mortar. The force returned safely to base.

3. Our forward units in the East Basra III Army Corps sector opened artillery, tank, and mortar fire on enemy positions and mortar emplacements, scoring direct hits. Other units in the same sector destroyed four ammunitions dumps and one infantry position, killing those manning it. Enemy ambulances were seen evacuating casualties.

4. One personnel position in the I Army Corps northern sector was destroyed, with those manning it killed.

5. The criminal enemy shelled Mandali's suburbs with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 October 1985

Navy Commander on Bahrgan Attack

JN130742 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA) — The commander of the Iraqi Naval Force and Coastal Defenses has stated that the naval units which struck Iran's Bahrgan oil field yesterday fired two tons of explosives. In a press statement here today, the commander said that Iraqi missiles accurately hit the oil field's facilities. He said that all of the facilities in the oil field were set on fire and destroyed, thus inflicting heavy loss of life on the Iranian side.

The commander added that Bahrgan oil field is one of the most important Iranian oil fields because it contains several wells and a principal pumping station which pumps oil from the Bahrgan oil field and the nearby (Handakam) oil field through pipelines to reservoirs on the Iranian coast.

The Iraqi military commander said that during their attack the only resistance the Iraqi naval units faced consisted of sporadic and ineffective artillery shelling by Iranian coastal defenses. He added that the Iranians spent all yesterday in rescue operations, proving the efficiency of the Iraqi strike which set the oil field on fire. He stressed that Iraqi observation posts affirmed that Iranian losses of life and equipment were huge.

10-11 Oct Operations

JN111743 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Communique No 1,985 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 October 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The banner of victory will continue to flutter on the lofty Iraqi territory, a victory shaped by men who have faith in God who made them more able.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In order to continue wiping out the resources of the despotic clique ruling Iran; in implementation of the decision of the people and their outstanding leadership to destroy the enemy's oil resources; and in order to keep Khark Island a pile of rubble and force the clique of charlatans to accept peace, our valiant hawks of the air launched a devastating new raid on Khark Island at 0950 today. Having carried out their daring raid, they returned safely to base, carrying with them glad tidings. Praise be to God.

2. Our powerful Air Force continues to destroy the Iranian regime's resources in order to prevent it from using them against Iraq and the great Iraqi people. At 0035 last night, our brave pilots attacked a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an effective and accurate hit. Having carried out their duty with high accuracy and efficiency, they returned to their bases, safe in God's protection.

3. While carrying out its duties in the no-man's-land in the II Army Corps central sector, a brave patrol of our forward units confronted two enemy groups. Backed by artillery and mortars, our patrol opened fire on them, killing or wounding members of the two groups. Our brave patrol safely returned to base.

4. Our brave fighters in the East Basra III Army Corps sector, using artillery, tank fire, and mortars, dealt fierce and concentrated blows to forward enemy positions, military hardware, ammunition dumps, and troop concentrations, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life and equipment. The sounds of explosions were heard from enemy ammunition dumps and columns of smoke were seen billowing from them. Our fighters also destroyed several infantry positions and destroyed one excavator. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses in ambulances.

5. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled Al-'Uzayr with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 October 1985

Foreign Ministry Statement on U.S. Interception

JN111840 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 85

["Text" of statement by Foreign Ministry official spokesman on 11 October 85]

[Text] The hijacking of the Egyptian plane by U.S. airplanes in the Mediterranean is a completely unjustified act. The PLO asserted that it would take to task the hijackers of the Italian ship. The PLO is legitimate and internationally recognized, as well as being the side in charge of this, not the U.S. warplanes, which have no right to interfere in this matter.

The hijacking of the Egyptian plane in this manner is merely a show of force and another assertion of U.S. bias in dealing with regional issues. The U.S. aircraft in the Mediterranean did not intercept the Israeli planes, which raided an Arab state, but the U.S. Government approved that raid. Meanwhile, U.S. planes hijacked a plane belonging to another Arab state which exerted sincere efforts to end the crisis of the Italian ship.

Such biased behavior, which is absolutely contrary to the justifications given for it, contributes to increasing the cycle of violence and revenge in the area. The responsibility for such behavior is placed on the Zionist entity, which occupies Arab territory, kills Arab citizens, displaces them from their lands, and rejects UN resolutions, as well as refuses to apply international laws and challenges the entire world with the logic of force and terrorism.

Papers Comment

JN120842 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA) — Iraqi newspapers have described the U.S. hijacking of the Egyptian airliner as an unjustified piracy and warned that it will lead to further violence and use of force in the region.

AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. operation is considered a blatant air piracy and a hostile action that cannot at all be justified. It indicates that the operation emphasizes the U.S. bias toward Israel and falls within the framework of international terrorism which will increase the acts of violence and vengeance in the region. It adds that this operation will encourage the Zionsit enemy, which bears responsibility for violence and terrorism in the region, to continue its hostile subversive acts.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that with this operation the United States has violated its responsibilities and international commitments, asserting that the U.S. piracy expresses a desire to take revenge on a people hounded by injustice and arrogance.

It points out that the action is blatant piracy and a show of force that implies a conspircuous bias and that opens the door to grave possibilities once the acts of hijacking, violence, and vengeance are repeated in the region. It adds: The U.S. piracy sets a serious precedent in international relations because it was carried out against a civilian plane belonging to Egypt, which exerted sincere efforts to end the crisis of the Italian ship.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the U.S. piracy is a flagrant aggression against the Arab nation, shows complete bias toward the Zionist entity, and is an encouragement of this entity's terrorist practices. It warns that this piracy will result in further violence and use of force in the region, adding that this air piracy expresses a desire to escalate tension in the region and emphasizes the continuous U.S. bias toward the Zionist entity as well as the U.S. backing of this entity by means of all material, military, political, and terrorist methods.

Defense Minister on War, Gulf States' Attitude

JN140947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Oct (INA) — Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister, has asserted that the war with Iran has been militarily decided in Iraq's favor. He said that the destruction of Khark Island is a crippling blow to the Iranian economy, adding that between 700,000 and 1 million Iranians have been killed and 3 million wounded in the war with Iraq.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* published today, Khayrallah said that the closure of the Stait of Hormuz would be a grave loss for Iran itself.

Khayrallah noted that the Gulf states' defensive capabilities are high and that they are capable of thwarting Iranian threats.

The defense minister said that Iran is now at an impasse: It fought for 5 years, lost heavily, and has not achieved anything. He noted that the Iranian Army's role has been eroded and that the Iranian rulers are endeavoring to replace it by the guards, whose members are now being trained in the Navy, Air Force, and Army.

Khayrallah pointed out that the Iranian situation is rapidly deteriorating and that Khomeyni's image has been tarnished in the eyes of the Iranian people, who are cursing him in the open. He said: The Iranians we encounter now on the battlefield are unlike those we fought 3 years ago. It is very rare to see a tank on the Iranian side. The Air Force is in a very bad shape and the Navy has lost its effectiveness.

General Khayrallah revealed a previous military operation that involved destroying a ship carrying 150 Libyan tanks to Iran and said: We were monitoring the ship throughout until we hit it. He said that Iran and Libya fell into the snares of arms merchants more than once. They would sign an agreement on arms shipments but when they received them they would discover that they were either junk or wooden toys. Recalling the military assistance that Syria, Libya, and North Korea have been extending to Iran, Khayrallah said that the weapons that the Iraqi Army used to capture from the Iranians were Western-made but now most of them are made in the East.

Khayrallah said that Iraq's success in striking Khark Island is due to the efficiency of the Iraqi pilots and not the use of laser beams or a certain type of plane. He added that some of the planes that bombed the island were made in the east and not in the west, something which confirms accurate planning and the competence of the Iraqi pilots. He pointed out that Iran would be the loser if it closes the Strait of Hormuz. Iraq will not lose anything because its oil pipelines are very far from this region.

Khayrallah noted that Iran's military option was eliminated more than a year ago, adding that the battle with Iran is a battle of existence rather than borders. He pointed out that the Iranians are now suffering massive losses in all military operations because of [Iraq's] military superiority in the war. Khayrallah said that the East Tigris battle last March resulted in great losses for Iran, adding that Iranian bridges were used to evacuate Iranian dead and wounded during the last 3 days of the battle.

Khayrallah hailed the Gulf states' support for Iraq and described Kuwait's stand as patriotic and sincere. He said: We are proud of our Kuwaiti people's generous sentiments. He said that our confidence in our Gulf brothers is great.

The defense minister affirmed that Iran will be incapable of carrying out its threats against the Gulf countries. He expressed his conviction that there are certain international sides that are endeavoring to prolong the war. He said many people do not want Iraq to triumph but added that Iraq has a bright image in the world.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From UN Session 11 Oct

JN111252 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1144 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 40th session of the UN General Assembly, which is being held in New York.

Oil Minister Returns From Vienna OPEC Meeting

JN121259 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1228 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi returned to Baghdad today after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 75th extraordinary OPEC conference which recently concluded in Vienna.

Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation Leaves for UK

JN121630 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation left Amman for London today on a visit to Britain. The delegation meet with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and explain the aims of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord aimed at achieving a peaceful, comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

The delegation is composed of Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahab al-Majali, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and PLO Executive Committee members Muhammad Milhim and Bishop Iliya Khuri. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Dr Sami Jawdah, minister of state for parliamentary affairs; Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member; and the adviser of the British Embassy in Amman.

Official Spokesman's Statement on Cancellation

JN141618 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Amman — Jordan's official spokesman has stated the following:

The invitation the British prime minister addressed to the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation to visit Britain and meet with its foreign secretary was made on the basis that the joint delegation would issue a statement after the meeting, including the points announced by the prime minister at her press conference in Aqaba on 20 September 1985. Agreement was reached with the British side on the formula for the statement in light of the consultations held among the members of the joint delegation.

The delegation left for London accordingly. However, one of the two Palestinian members of the joint delegation regrettably expressed his unwillingness to agree to the statement according to the formula that was earlier agreed. Therefore, the British foreign secretary was of the opinion that, under these circumstances, it was not possible to hold the meeting on its fixed date.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe received Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahab al-Majali, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and the Jordanian ambassador in London this morning.

Press on Meeting's Cancellation

JN151017 [Editorial Report] None of the Jordanian Arabic language papers today commented on the cancellation of the meeting between the British foreign secretary and PLO delegates within the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation yesterday. The three daily newspapers frontpaged the Jordanian Government's statement reported in the referent item without comment and under the following headlines:

AL-RA'Y: Al-Majali, Al-Masri Meet With the British Foreign Secretary. Official Jordanian Spokesman on Cancellation of Howe's Meeting With Joint Delegation.

AL-DUSTUR: Howe Meets Al-Majali, Al-Masri After Postponing Meeting. Jordan Regrets Palestinan Member's Failure To Approve an Agreed-on Draft Statement.

SAWT AL-SHA'B: Al-Majali, Al-Masri Meet With British Foreign Secretary. Official Spokesman Explains Why Howe's Meeting With the Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation Was Canceled.

The *JORDAN TIMES* main frontpage story was an expanded report citing its staff reporter as well as agency dispatches on this issue under the headlines: Britain Calls Off Meeting With Joint Team; Jordan Blames PLO Delegation for Cancellation. The paper goes on to cite statements by the Jordanian Government and the British Foreign Office as well as factual news agency reports on the subject.

UK Armed Forces Minister Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN121350 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received John Stanley, British minister of state for armed forces, and the accompanying delegation in his office this morning.

The meeting was attended by the UK ambassador, the British military attache in Amman, and the assistant chief of staff for administration.

Visits Armed Forces Command

JN121500 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Amman, 12 Oct (PETRA) — John Stanley, British minister of state for armed forces, visited the Armed Forces General Command this morning. He was received by Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the assistants of the chief of staff; the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force; and the commander of the Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali Brigade.

Meets With Prince Hasan

JN121931 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office today John Stanley, British minister of state for armed forces, who is currently visiting Jordan. The meeting was attended by chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Departs 13 Oct

JN131246 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Amman — John Stanley, British minister of state for armed forces, and his wife departed Amman this morning following a visit to the Kingdom lasting several days.

During the visit he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; Zayd al-Rafa'i, the prime minister and defense minister; and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. He was seen off by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of staff and his assistants, the inspector general, their wives, the British ambassador, the British military attache in Amman, and a number of embassy staff and their wives.

Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received John Stanley in his office this morning. He met with him for some time in the presence of the chief of staff, the assistant chief of staff for administration, the British ambassador, and the British military attache in Amman.

Al-Masri Views Tunis Raid, Peace Effort, USSR Role

PM111445 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 11 Oct 85 pp 21-23

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-HAWADITH*: The timing of the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis coincided with King Husayn's presence in Washington when you were making efforts for peace. What is the raid's direct effect on the peace process?

Tahir al-Masri: We regard striking at the current efforts to reach a peaceful settlement as one of the raid's objectives. There are many other objectives, including demonstrating Israel's arrogance. An internal objective is to show that Peres is not the lenient man that some accuse him of being. The third objective of the raid is no doubt to eliminate some of the Palestinian leadership, including 'Arafat. And because our dealings, whether at present or in the future, are with the U.S. Administration, our behavior in the future will be on this basis. [as published] It is true that the U.S. reaction was contrary to international law and international legitimacy, but there has been some change in the past 2 days. Nevertheless, this is still unacceptable to us because it does not condemn the raid.

AL-HAWADITH: The U.S. Administration's comments on the raid during King Husayn's presence there must have embarrassed Jordan and the king.

Tahir al-Masir: We were in the same situation as the other Arab countries that have condemned the raid.

AL-HAWADITH: But the other Arab countries were not in Washington during the raid talking about peace and the peace process to be negotiated with Israel. You were talking about peace and at the same time Israel came and slapped peace in the face. Some regard this as a slap to Jordan and to its efforts.

Tahir al-Masri: I would not want to use the term "slap," but if I were to, then I would say that it is directed to the U.S. efforts as much as it is to Jordan's efforts.

AL-HAWADITH: Some people believe that the raid on Tunis is a prelude to a raid or some sort of an operation against Jordan in view of the Israeli accusations against it, that it allegedly helps the PLO and allows infiltration and support for resistance in the occupied territories.

Tahir al-Masri: Israel has made public threats against Jordan and has been making them for a long time. We must not ignore them; indeed we must take them seriously.

AL-HAWADITH: While a high-ranking U.S. official said that Israel's use of U.S.-made aircraft in the raid was legitimate, he was careful to tell Israel in a warning tone that it should not carry out its threats against Jordan. Have the Americans given you any guarantees that Israel will not attack you?

Tahir al-Masri: Now, we are not asking for U.S. guarantees. Our attitude toward terror is well-known. We in the first place are a state that suffers from terror and so we cannot but stand against it.

AL-HAWADITH: Some people believe that the Israeli raid has sabotaged the Amman accord.

Tahir al-Masri: This is not true. The Amman accord is an agreement between Jordan and the PLO and I do not see the relationship between the Tunis raid and the Amman accord.

AL-HAWADITH: But one of the principles of the Amman accord is that peaceful negotiations should take place between Israel and a delegation including Palestinians and Jordanians. In some people's view, after the Israeli raid 'Arafat will be unable to proceed toward the peaceful negotiations agreed upon in the Amman accord.

Tahir al-Masri: Still, I do not see the relationship between the two. The Amman accord is a work plan for the future agreed upon between the PLO and the Jordanian Government. The links between the two sides and their desired objectives are far more than some people expect. In fact, shortly we will make a visit to Britain as a joint delegation. Even after the raid it was agreed to visit Luxembourg. This, of course, was with 'Arafat's agreement. In fact, this raid will strengthen ties and cohesion between the PLO and Jordan, and the Palestinian people and the Jordanian people.

AL-HAWADITH: Let us go back to King Husayn's visit to New York and then Washington, which occurred during the raid. What happened during the visit regarding the question of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the idea of an international framework and direct negotiations?

Tahir al-Masri: The visit to the United Nations was, first of all, for the purpose of acquainting the world with, via the UN rostrum, Jordan's policy and its desire to reach a peaceful solution. In the United States, in particular, and in some circles in the Western countries there is a misunderstanding of Arab intentions and blocking out of Arab views. We believe in dialogue and in the need to address friends as well as those inimical to the Arab viewpoint. As long as the Arabs are in their present state of division we must intensify our efforts on the international level in order to obtain international support vis-a-vis the Israeli policies and arrogance.

AL-HAWADITH: Did you feel any readiness by the Americans to accept a Soviet role in the peace process, or do they insist on exclusively dealing with the question of peace as they have been doing so far?

Tahir al-Masri: I believe that the Americans are now aware that the Middle East problem cannot be solved through direct negotiations and that Jordan adheres to its views and will not change them. Therefore, the next step in their thinking is that as long as this fact has been established, an alternative must therefore be found. We do not know what alternative they have on their mind. Of course, they have spoken about an international umbrella but their interpretation of such an umbrella is not international. For this reason we have rejected it.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the peace process now in a stalemate?

Tahir al-Masri: No, there is slow and minor progress because there is a wide gap in the thinking of both sides, the Arab on one side and the U.S. and Israeli on the other. No serious peace proposals have been put forth for the Palestinian problem since 1948. In my estimation this is the first serious attempt. Therefore, if we look at the problem on a time scale, we find that only 7 months have passed since the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Perhaps we have not been too slow during those months because real and serious dialogue must go full circle so that understanding and maybe trust between the two sides will be consolidated.

AL-HAWADITH: Why do you make all these efforts when Shim'on Peres has carried out this raid on Tunis and Yitzhaq Shamir is making statements against the entire peace progress...

Tahir al-Masri: Is this possible? Our country is being lost, the West Bank is being gnawed at inch by inch, and the Palestinians are suffering humiliation and terror in all parts of the world — does this not deserve efforts and certain risks in order to save the land? Is it not sufficient that we lost Palestine in 1948 as a result of inaction, cowardice, and treason? Should we allow the West Bank to be lost? Is it not the duty of every Arab to try? Had the Arabs been trying seriously there would have been no reason for me to find myself obliged to go to Washington, Moscow, or anywhere. What shall we do?

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Israeli Government, with its Labor wing under Peres leadership and Likud wing under Shamir leadership, is willing to negotiate in order to return the land?

Tahir al-Masri: Even if these are the Israeli Government's intentions — and I agree with you that they are — we must look to the United States, Israel's principal ally. Israel dominates the minds, pockets, and hearts of the Americans, whether individuals or officials. We must penetrate this barrier and do all we can. It is a difficult matter and, sometimes, painful. But I am talking about a homeland and I have no way other than convincing the world of my right to this homeland. This is our principle.

AL-HAWADITH: Excuse my saying so, but the U.S. Congress was insolent in its demands and conditions before endorsing the arms deal with Jordan; it was as if it were treating Jordan with contempt.

Tahir al-Masri: I do not agree with you on this point. Of course they have their demands, but the manner in which His Majesty King Husayn was received in the Congress showed otherwise. First he met with a large number of congressmen and senators separately. Then the House of Representatives and the Senate suspended their meetings in order to enable members to attend the meeting with King Husayn. Furthermore, Congressional and Senate leaders as well as Vice President George Bush were present at the meeting. This is a show of appreciation and respect for the king. But we must understand the American mentality and what goes in the Americans' mind. What we say is that we should attack the American mind and the American policy where we can hurt the Israelis. Any explanation of the Jordanian policy and the Arab problem and the Palestinian problem is a gain for us and weakening of Israel.

AL-HAWADITH: Did you discuss with the Soviet Union the idea of Security Council supervision of the direct negotiations and, if so, what was its reaction? According to reports, the Soviets do not want this formula; all that they want is the cochairmanship of an international conference with the Americans.

Tahir al-Masri: Maybe, but we have no official confirmation of this. What we hear is that the Soviet Union wants joint chairmanship similar to that of the 1973 Geneva conference and going back to the peace proposal which the Soviets put forward last year. The Soviets call for the participation of the Soviet Union and the United States in the international conference in addition to any parties other than the parties concerned with the approval of everybody. Therefore, from the Soviet viewpoint the door is open to participation by the rest of the Security Council member-states. On our part, we say that these parties should be the three other permanent member-states, namely China, France, and Britain.

AL-HAWADITH: With regard to the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement, how do you evaluate the Jordanian-Syrian relations at present? What has the Jeddah meeting achieved and what are the Jordanian conditions for improving relations?

Tahir al-Masri: First, we have no conditions. When the Arab reconciliation committee came to Jordan and proposed the idea of the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn immediately agreed. We have made it clear to the committee and to the Syrian side later that Jordan has no conditions and has no demands from Syria. Our bilateral relations are good and nothing mars them. There are political differences between us and Syria concerning matters that are beyond the bilateral relations between the two countries. Therefore, dialogue is always useful and we believe in it. With regard to the Jeddah meeting, the atmosphere was positive and the two sides wanted to reach some sort of an understanding. It was agreed to hold another meeting next month and it will, God willing, take place.

AL-HAWADITH: The Syrians speak in the same tone about bilateral relations with Jordan but add that the problem or one of the problems is due to two things: the Amman accord and the resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt. Damascus wants to abrogate the Amman accord and regards the resumption of relations with Egypt as a violation of the Baghdad summit resolutions.

Tahir al-Masri: First, the question of relations with Egypt was not brought up in the Jeddah talks; it was only for a few minutes. Second, the question of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was discussed and we stated our views regarding it. There is no doubt that it will be a subject of discussion at the next meeting. But this is a bilateral agreement between us and the PLO, so what has Syria to do with it? Moreover, we cannot enter into discussion on a matter like this through newspapers. Therefore, I do not wish to discuss of the matter or our views on it in newspapers. There will be future meetings in which matters will be discussed in a fraternal and frank manner.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe in the principle of exchanging land for peace within Resolution 242's principles?

Tahir al-Masri: Of course. What does total withdrawal mean in return for living within recognized and secure borders? Who will recognize such borders, is it Nepal or the countries neighboring Israel?

AL-HAWADITH: Do you consider that Syria accepted Resolution 242?

Tahir al-Masri: Of course it accepted. It also accepted Resolution 338. The records show that. President Hafiz al-Asad himself made statements to Swiss journalists and previously to Romanian and Italian journalists regarding Resolutions 242 and 338 and an international conference.

UN Representative Salah Speaks on Mideast Issue

JN121409 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] United Nations —'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent UN representative, has stressed the need to convene an international peace conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO and the five permament UN Security Council member-states. In a speech delivered before the Security Council last night, which is currently discussing the Palestine question and the Middle East issue, he said that the current circumstances under which the Security Council is meeting affirm the seriousness of the absence of a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He said that the continuation of the no war, no peace state is the real reason for the violence in the region. He called for exploiting the time factor and the need not to waste the available opportunity to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. He said Jordan has worked continuously for a lasting, just, and comprehensive political solution that ends the no war, no peace state in the region. He also called for backing the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as a practical, positive step to achieve the desired peace and regain the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights and contribute to international detente.

A number of representatives delivered speeches before the Security Council during the last 2 days in which they expressed their countries' support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and considered it a positive step toward a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

U.S. Intercept of Plane Called 'Cowboy Diplomacy'

JN120833 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Oct 85 p 28

[Article by *AL-RA'Y* chief editor Mahmud al-Kayid in the "Just an Opinion" column under the headline "Cowboy Diplomacy"]

[Text] "Cowboy diplomacy" is a common term used by experts to mean the policy of murder and military threat. The term comes from the famous American movies in which the cowboy draws his gun to immediately settle a fight.

So if we know that U.S. President Ronald Reagan once starred in such movies, then there is no need to wonder about what has happened and is happening now.

And if we and the entire world have denounced the hijacking of the Italian ship by four young Palestinians — who are said to be survivors of the Sabra and Shatila massacres — and have described their "incomprehensible" operation as an act of "maritime piracy" that must be denounced and condemned, how then are we to describe the strange operation carried out by U.S. warplanes on direct orders from the U.S. President to hijack an Egyptian airliner and force it to land at a NATO base in Sicily as anything other than an act of "air piracy" that must also be denounced and condemned.

Incidentally, where were the U.S. fleets, planes, and radar stations when the Israeli planes with their heavy cargo of missiles and tons of bombs crossed the Mediterranean Sea to drop fireballs of death and destruction on Tunisians and Palestinians in Hammam al-Shatt? Even in its comment on this act, the United States was the only country in the world that did not condemn the criminal operation. In fact, the U.S. President considered it legitimate retaliation.

There are certain facts that must be understood by both the big and the small in this world; that is, terrorism is indivisible and piracy is piracy whether at sea, in the air, or on land. Furthermore, murder and destruction can only lead to murder and destruction whether it comes from a desperate person or a major power. Otherwise, we would be entering an era of terrorism and piracy and what would follow would be even more disastrous.

'Compensation' to Israel

JN130906 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Oct 85 p 1

[Editorial: "U.S. Compensation to Israel at the Expense of Egypt's Dignity"]

[Text] Israel announced yesterday that the forced landing of an Egyptian plane in Sicily was the practical translation of President Reagan's support of the Israeli raid on Tunis. This clear, frank linking between the two incidents confirms the firm conviction that the hijacking of the Egyptian plane was compensation to Israel for U.S. refusal to use the veto in the UN Security Council and punishment to Egypt for its condemnation of that raid. This also confirms that the issue of the hijackers of the Italian ship was only an occasion Washington used as a pretext to carry out that translation and implement that punishment.

It emerges, therefore, that the hijacking of the Egyptian plane, which President Reagan boastfully says he personally planned, was not a heroic act to combat terrorism, but was U.S. compensation in Israel's interest at the expense of Egypt's dignity. It should be noted that Washington's extreme elation, expressed by statements bragging about the power of U.S. intelligence, as well as the malice they show, are all negative factors which the Arab people will never forget. These bad practices are aimed at hindering the Arab march of peace and will generate a conviction in the region that the only alternative left is the exacerbation of conflict.

It should be also noted that Italy, currently playing the role of the martyr in the ship incident and which colluded with the United States in the hijacking of the Egyptian plane, has so far not denied the role attributed to the NATO base in Sicily of receiving and fueling the Israeli planes which carried out the raid on Tunis. This base was used in the hijacking of the Egyptian plane. Hence, Italy has returned to Egypt evil for good. Instead of thanking Egypt for responding to its request to save the ship, Italy did not hesitate to collude with the United States at the expense of Egypt's dignity and sovereignty.

Those who rejoice over the hijacking of the Egyptian plane are thereby harming themselves and their countries. The hijacking of the Egyptian plane is a message addressed to all Arabs, a message full of scorn and challenge. It says that the dignity of all Arabs is on call to settle any U.S. debt in Israel's interest.

Complicates Search for Peace

JN130927 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Oct 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Lesson of Hijackers"]

[Text] The hijacking by U.S. Navy fighters of the Egyptian plane that carried the hijackers of the *Achille Lauro* has exacerbated the already strong anti-U.S. feelings in the Arab world, and as such, the operation is bound to further complicate the search for peace in the Middle East. President Reagan was no doubt aware of this problem when he tried on Friday to dismiss concern over Egyptian-American ties and said: "We have had too firm a relationship (with Egypt)... and there's too much at stake with regard to peace in the Middle East for us to let a single incident colour that relationship." But, evidently, the U.S. president was too preoccupied with his image at home to think of what Cairo might or might not think and do about one of its planes being intercepted and forced to land in another country.

In the air himself, aboard Air Force One, he ordered and personally approved plans for hijacking the Egyptian aircraft, starting in the process a dilemma greater and more dangerous than that created by the hijack of the Italian ship itself.

The story of the hijack of the hijackers is just beginning to unfold in fact. Yesterday, after hundreds of Egyptian students marched in a violent protest against the U.S., Israel, and the Egyptian Government's handling of the hijack affair, President Husni Mubarak described the U.S. action as "air piracy" and said he "never imagined a friendly state" would do such a thing. The Egyptian president went further to warn the Americans against thinking the tragic episode would not affect relations with Egypt. "Do they hope we can get over this that easily?" he asked. "It will take a long time. The American excuses for intercepting the plane are not acceptable."

That was only the Egyptian side of the story. The other sides are many, and potentially more harmful. Was George Shultz not warning only a few days back that "terrorism is terrorism," no matter where it comes from, and that violence breeds violence? Where was he to tell his president that the U.S. should not take the law into its own hands and force an Egyptian place to land in Italy?

The U.S. outrage at the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro* was understandable and justifiable. Arabs not only condemned the piracy the moment it happened, but also took it upon themselves to end the drama peacefully and speedily. When, however, it transpired that an American citizen was missing and presumed killed, we shared with the Americans their grief and anger. But to do justice, we would not have thought that the U.S., or any other country, would itself commit an illegal act of piracy, not when the Palestinian gunmen were on their way to prosecution by the PLO or when Egypt could have been requested to try them on its territory. If the Amercians were so clever to discover that the Palestinians were still in Egypt some hours after President Mubrak said they had been handed over to the PLO, why did President Reagan not use his clout and influence to keep them there in order to try them? Why did the U.S. go as far as having to hijack the Egyptian plane carrying them, and in the process put more pressure on themselves, the Egyptians, and everybody else who wanted a quick and happy end to the whole issue?

Surely applying the "cowboy mentality" to problem-solving in the Middle East is not the answer. It could not possibly work to solve any problem here or in any other area. The lesson will be lost on the Americans unless they take their power more seriously and have more respect for the rights and aspirations of others.

Islamic Jihad Confirms Buckley's Execution

NC120625 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0619 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization has confirmed the execution of U.S. diplomat William Buckley. It also offered to hand his body over to the United Nations, provided that 100 Palestinian prisoners are released from Israeli prisons.

This announcement came in a new statement by the organization, which the newspaper *AL-NAHAR* received at midnight last night. The statement was accompanied by a picture of Buckley's body.

Further Details

NC120733 Paris AFP in English
0725 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Beirut, Oct 12 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad movement furnished photigraphic evidence today to back its claim that it had murdered U.S. diplomat William Buckley a week ago.

The fundamentalist group said ti would turn over Mr Buckley's body to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in exchange for "the release of 100 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons."

A typed Islamic Jihad statement, distributed to the Lebanese and international press here during the night, was accompanied by an overexposed photo of the victim's body, wrapped in a white shroud and covered by a woollen blanket.

Only the victim's face is distinguishable in the photograph, with a beard and moustache showing, his eyes closed and mouth half open. There was no indication as to when the picture was taken.

The statement repeated the group's claim that Mr Buckley, 54-year-old third secretary [age and title as received] at the U.S. Embassy here when he was kidnapped on March 16, 1984, was an "American spy."

Islamic Jihad said on October 4 that it had "executed" Mr Buckley in retaliation for an Israeli air raid which damaged Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) headquarters near Tunis.

The communique said Islamic Jihad was involving the United Nations because "for the first time, the United Nations has condemned the savage crime perpetrated by the United States and Israel in the last raid against the Moslem people in Tunis."

It added that the decision to kill the diplomat had been taken after the United Nations had condemned the Israeli raid and after "permission," had been received from the families of the victims of the raid.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan said in Washington, after Islamic Jihad announced it had killed Mr. Buckley that there had been no confirmation of the murder, and that there would be no official comment "until we know something definite."

Islamic Jihad said its action was in response to the "lies" from Washington "which said it had no proof of the execution of the American spy ... and maintained that the spy was executed two months ago, on information from the Lebanese intelligence services."

The statement also warned that Islamic Jihad was prepared to take further action "with an iron fist, for any blow against the Moslem people in the world."

Five other U.S. hostages are still held in Lebanon.

Text of Statement

NC141303 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
12 Oct 85 pp 1,8

[Text] Eight days after the Islamic Jihad organization's 3 October announcement on the execution of William Buckley, political attache at the U.S. embassy in Beirut who was kidnapped in Beirut on 18 March 1984 (*AL-NAHAR* 4/10/85), the organization confirmed his death in a new statement which *AL-NAHAR* received at midnight. The document was accompanied by an unclear color photograph of what appeared to be the American diplomat's body.

The organization declared that it is putting Buckley's body at the disposal of the United Nations and its secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar. It has done so "on the condition that 100 Palestinian detainees be released from Israel's prisons, and to show our good intentions, we will hand over the body 24 hours before the scheduled release of the detainees in Israel."

Here is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

So fight ye against the friends of Satan: Feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan. [Koranic verse]

After it became evident to the entire world that the United States was the chief perpetrator of the crime in Tunis, and after it found itself unable to reply to the peoples because it committed these vile crimes against Muslims, the United States began to fabricate lies. It said that it had no proof that the American spy William Buckley had been executed. It is trying to deceive the people by telling them that the United States has not been hit in retaliation for the crime against the Muslims in Tunisia, in which it took part. It claimed that the spy was killed 2 months ago, basing this assertion on information from its foster child, the Lebanese intelligence apparatus, and its underground agents, who are being are being unmasked on a dialy basis.

But we confirm to the Muslims of the world that we executed the U.S. spy in retaliation for the blow directed against the Muslims in Tunisia. We are ready to retaliate with an iron fist for any blow aimed at Muslims throughout the world. We will even cut off the hands of all those who try to strike at Muslims. Everyone knows that Islamic Jihad does what it says. The United States is trying to use this to deceive the American people and the families of the American hostages. This stems from the fact that the U.S.

Administration and its President, whose hands are stained with the blood of the oppressed, do not respect the American people or their employees.

We give the United States definite proof that Buckley has been executed. We warn the United States and hold it responsible for whatever happens to the other hostages. On this basis, we address ourselves to the United Nations, which for the first time, condemned the barbaric crime committed by the United States and Israel in the recent raid on the Muslims in Tunisia. If the United Nations always works in accordance with the people's judgement, it will have greater support from the people. But if it uses the veto right against the people's interests, it will be an anti-national organization. This is why the terrorist state of Israel and its supporters must be expelled from the United Nations.

In response to this condemnation and after obtaining permission from the families of the martyrs to dispose of the U.S. spy's body, we, in turn, put it at the disposal of the United Nations and its leader, Javier Perez de Cuellar. We do so on the condition that 100 Palestinian detainees be released from Israel's prisons. To show our good intentions, we will hand over the body 24 hours before the scheduled release of the detainees in Israel. Javier Perez de Cuellar will pay a high price if they doublecross us.

Finally, we address ourselves to the families of the American hostages. Regrettably, we say that the U.S. authorities and President Reagan are responsible for any harm or misforture that might befall the hostages we are holding.

Hizballah Official Remarks

NC121347 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1322 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, the spiritual guide of Hizballah, has stated that he is unaware of what has been published regarding the execution of William Buckely, the third secretary [title as received] at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, by the Islamic Jihad.

In a press statement to be published on Monday, Shaykh Tufayli added that if the press reports on Buckley are true, then his execution came in reaction to the U.S. position toward the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Alluding to the Soviet hostages, Tufayli said: We are against the kidnapping of Soviet diplomats and the killing of some of them. He added that whoever did this surely does not know what is in his own interests.

Replying to a question on whether there are international intelligence elements behind the killing of the Soviet diplomat, Shaykh Tufayli said: This is very possible.

Touching on the recent battles in Tripoli, Shaykh Tufayli noted that the fighting that had raged in the town has both local and international dimensions and was solely aimed at serving Israel. The fighting constituted a blow to the Islamic trend.

Regarding reports that Palestinian fighters had fought alongside the Islamic Unification Movement, Tufayli affirmed that he had not seen a single Palestinian fighter. He added that 'Arafat exists [mawjud] in almost every Lebanese town, particularly in the Islamic areas.

Soviet Charge d'Affaires Discusses Kidnapping

NC121204 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Yuriy Suslikov, Soviet charge d'affaires in Beirut, today affirmed that the kidnapping of Soviet diplomats will not diminish Soviet support for all people who seek liberation. The Soviet stand on the Lebanese problem and other Middle East issues will remain unchanged, he stated.

Islamic Organization Threatens To Kill Soviets

NC131326 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1318 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] In a telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon, an unidentified person claiming to belong to the Islamic Liberation Organization has threatened to blow up the Soviet Embassy and to kill the three kidnapped diplomats if Moscow's embassy in Beirut is not closed for good within the next 48 hours. He also warned all leftist parties, particularly the Progressive Socialist Party, against intervening and protecting the embassy.

Execution 'Within 30 Minutes'

NC141329 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1317 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] An unidentified person called the voice of Lebanon at 1430 today and announced that the Islamic Liberation Organization would execute the three kidnapped Soviet diplomats within 30 minutes because, as he said, the organization's demands have not been met. We have received no further telephone calls from this person.

Jihad Spokesman Denies Threat

NC141919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] An unidentified person contacted us about 15 minutes ago and said that he belongs to the Islamic Jihad Organization. He read a statement issued by the Islamic Jihad Organization and the Islamic Liberation Front. The statement says: We will destroy the Soviet embassy in Beirut if the party offices are not closed in Tripoli where they recently reopened.

The anonymous spokesman denied that any official of the Islamic Jihad Organization had contacted a private radio station and told it of the organization's threat to kill the three kidnapped Soviets. He affirmed that this report is an absolute lie.

The spokesman warned against broadcasting any false reports on behalf of the organization or else it will take severe measures against those who circulate these reports.

USSR Said To Be Considering 'Military Step'

JN141014 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
12 Oct 85 p 12

[Text] While Soviet leader Gorbachev was visiting Paris, confidential sources reported that the USSR might exploit the kidnapping of the four Soviet diplomats by carrying out a military step in Lebanon. These reports said that the USSR had drawn up the scenario of Soviet interference represented by a landing operation that would take place after an official Lebanese request.

Reports from a Western capital said that the intelligence apparatus of a big power may be involved to some extent in the kidnapping of the Soviet diplomats in Beirut. What confirmed these reports was the fact that Gorbachev was in continuous contact with his country's embassies in Beirut and Damascus and that he had exchanged messages with the Syrian and Lebanese presidents. President al-Jumayyil authorized Emir Farouk Abillama, Lebanese ambassador in Paris, to hand a personal letter from him to the Soviet leader on the results of Lebanese investigations into the side responsible for the kidnapping and also on the primary contacts with various parties.

Mufti Khalid, Suslikov Discuss Kidnapped Soviets

NC141735 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Remarks by Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Lebanese Republic, in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following his meeting with Soviet Charge d'Affaires Yuriy Suslikov at the mufti's house in 'Aramun on 14 October — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Your Eminence, you met this afternoon with Soviet Charge d'Affaires Yuriy Suslikov. Can you tell us what the outcome of his visit was?

[Mufti Khalid] He came to deliver a message from the ulema and head of the religious department in Tashkent and the Soviet Union. I indeed received and read this letter. He also conveyed to me the report carried by the information media today that those who kidnapped the four Russians and killed one of them have threatened to kill the other three and to do other things. We tried together to think of what could be done to save the three from this fate and to ensure the safety of the other Russians in the embassy. I listened to him with absolute sorrow and regret, just as I listen to anyone who conveys to me news of this kind. We have had enough of actions against citizens. We want all the people to cooperate and engage in constructive dialogue. We want Lebanon to live in peace and tranquility. Therefore, we told him that we hope nothing will happen to the embassy or the members of the embassy just as we hope that no harm will befall any citizen or any resident of Lebanon.

On this occasion, I think that it is the duty of all officials, in and out of Lebanon, who can act and use their influence, to act seriously in these circumstances and put an end to the present anarchy. Lebanon must not be allowed to remain a jungle in which innocent people are the victims. If today this embassy was attacked and yesterday another embassy was attacked and today one institution was attacked and tomorrow another institution, it should also be recalled that the Lebanese people have been the subject of attacks for 11 years. All must think about the Lebanese people and think about every official in Lebanon and do their best to save everyone from this evil.

Of course, we denounce any action that harms even an ant, much more so when the attacks are against people, embassies, officials. We do not wish any harm to befall anyone. We are extremely displeased to see such actions. At the same time, we would like for everyone who is in a position to do something — Russians, Americans, French, Italians, and everyone else to act to ease the plight of the people in this country, whether Lebanese or Palestinian. We want them to act in order to rid us of these practices which are merciless and which spare [words indistinct].

Soviets Deny Contact With Kidnapped Diplomat

NC151232 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1204 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] The REUTER news agency carried a Soviet Embassy denial today of press reports that one of the missing diplomats had contacted the embassy to relay the kidnappers' latest demands. It should be noted that the search for the three kidnapped Soviet diplomats has made no progress.

An embassy official had this to say: We have made efforts and mobilized all our resources, but we have no definite information about them or their place of detention. He expressed doubts about recent telephone calls by anonymous persons to local radio stations and to U.S. newspapers and news agencies in Beirut. These callers made what they described as statements or threats from the kidnappers. He added: It is difficult to know whether these statements are authentic.

U.S. Said Recruiting Youths for Embassy Protection

LD121410 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1329 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Beirut, 12 Oct (KUNA) — The Lebanese magazine *AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI* reports in its latest issue published today the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has been working on recruiting 1,000 Lebanese youth to protect its premises in 'Ukar, East Beirut.

According to the magazine, the Embassy has begun mobilizing Lebanese cadres to protect its buildings in accordance with a sophisticated plan drawn up by the Pentagon to prevent any repetition of the suicide attacks to which it was exposed in the past in both sectors of Beirut. The magazine said that the recruits will receive a monthly salary of $500 and will receive training for 3 to 6 months aboard one of the American warships that roam the Mediterranean.

The applicants will initially undergo a test at the premises of the Embassy at 'Ukar, East Beirut, to test their knowledge of English and will also undergo medical and physical aptitude tests. A committee comprising elements of the CIA and marines will choose the successful candidates for training on the warships in the Mediterranean.

AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI points out that the plan to protect the U.S. Embassy in Beirut aims at setting up three security belts around the premises in addition to barricades and control centers at the main entrances of the embassy.

Israelis Fire at Fishing Boats in Sidon; 2 Missing

NC130833 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0815 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] According to reports from Sidon, Israeli ships opened gunfire at fishing boats in the port of Sidon early this morning. One fishing boat was hit and the rest sailed away. Eyewitnesses say that two fishermen were aboard the boat that was hit. It is not known if they have been killed or detained by the Israelis on the ships.

Amal Fires at 'Unidentified Boat' Off Beirut Coast

NC121040 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] An unidentified boat was cruising off the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda'-Al-Awza'i-Khaldah coast at about 1130 today. Amal gunmen positioned in Al-Awza'i fired flat-trajectory weapons at the boat. Amal gunmen are currently on alert.

Syrians Search Islands Off Tripoli for Weapons

NC150609 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] As the situation in Tripoli returns to normal, the Syrian forces are pressing ahead with the implementation of additional security measures there. Patrols are being increased and checkpoints reinforced in the city. The Syrians also raided a number of military assembly points and confiscated weapons. The arms were taken to the warehouse at the Tripoli International Fairgrounds.

Syrian gunboats have been spotted off the coast of Tripoli. The vessels, supported by Syrian helicopters, were taking part in a search for weapons on nearby islands. The operation focused on Al-Aranib in particular.

Israelis Enter Arnun; Overflights Reported

NC141334 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Security sources in the South have informed us that an Israeli enemy force composed of 12 Merkava tanks advanced toward Arnun this morning. The force is now trying to establish positions in the area.

According to our latest reports, the members of the force entered Arnun at 1100 today, raided several homes, detained a large number of residents, and set up checkpoints. The Israeli tanks are now trying to advance from the Arnun Castle with the support of the invading force.

Israeli enemy aircraft broke the sound barrier over Beirut about an hour ago. This led to two successive sonic booms. Israeli planes flew over the South earlier today.

Al-Sa'iqah Organization Claims Suicide Operation

NC120614 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] National and Islamic Resistance fighters have carried out a new suicide operation. This operation can now be added to a list of such heroic acts which national resistance fighters have carried out against the enemy Israeli forces and their agents in the occupied border strip.

A resistance fighter detonated his car while he himself was inside it at the Bayt Yahun Gate yesterday. The Al-Sa'iqah Organization has claimed responsibility for this suicide operation. It said that the fighter was Ahmad Jum'ah, who came from the town of Ansar in the south. The organization also noted that this operation had left 12 Israeli and agent Lahd soldiers dead, over 20 other people wounded, and 2 vehicles destroyed.

'National Resistance' Carries Out Suicide Operation

NC111927 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon
1900 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] According to reports from the south, Ahmad Jum'ah, a member of the national resistance, launched a suicide operation against a position held by Lahd militiamen and Israeli intelligence officers at the Dayr Yahun gate at 1730 today. A vehicle loaded with tnt was used to carry out the mission. The operation left several soldiers dead and a number of others wounded. Two military vehicles were destroyed. Israeli helicopters were seen evacuating the casualties.

Amal Official on Israeli Concentrations in South

NC151145 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Security sources in the Amal Movement confirm that the movement's observation posts have monitored concentrations and movements of Israeli armored forces in the advance positions around the border areas in Jazzin, Kfar Hunah, Al-'Ayshiyah, Tallat al-Nabi Tahir, Kafr Tibnit, Qal'at al-Shaqif, Arnun, Bawwabat 'Alman, and Bayt Yahun. The sources said that more than 100 tanks and armored vehicles were seen deploying and taking up positions in the abovementioned areas. They were carrying Israeli officers, troops, and intelligence men, in addition to groups of the agent Lahd militias.

Islamic Unification Stages Demonstration in Tripoli

NC131331 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1315 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Islamic Unification Movement officials led a demonstration in Tripoli this morning. This is the first such demonstration in the city since Syrian forces were deployed there.

Lebanese Forces 'Wings' Clash in East Beirut

NC151251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Security sources have reported that tension continues between two conflicting wings of the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut. This comes despite the fact that the presence of gunmen and roadblocks is not as apparent as before.

Fighting broke out last night and continued until early morning. It was heaviest around the [Phalangist] War Council in Al-Karantina, the fifth port quay, Al-Nahr, Ayn al-Rummanah, Al-Ashrafiyah,and Al-Dubayyah. There were a number of casualties.

Security sources also reported that the Elie Hubayqah wing was able to control the situation in the East and as far north as Kasrawan. The opposing faction attacked security centers held by the Lebanese Forces in Jubayl last night. Members of this wing took up positions in the Four Seasons Hotel.

USSR Reportedly To Train Syrians on Nuclear Weapons

LD121402 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Beirut, 12 Oct (KUNA) — The Lebanese magazine *AL-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA AL-DAWLI* reports in today's issue that "the USSR is moving [yatawajjah] toward supplying Syria with nuclear weapons."

Quoting the ambassador of an Arab Gulf country in the Syrian capital, the magazine says that Syrian Defense minister Lt Gen Mustafa Talas had disclosed recently that the USSR has decided to supply Syria with "nuclear weapons".

The magazine quotes the ambassador as saying that "this matter has become almost definite and that Syrian specialists will be leaving for the USSR to train on this type of weapons."

Comment on Ship Hijacking, Plane Diversion

U.S.-Egyptian Collusion in 'Air Piracy'

JN120656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0345 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "The Hijacking of the Egyptian Airliner and the Game of Reactivating the Capitulatory Move," *AL-THAWRAH* says: The hijacking of the Egyptian airliner by U.S. warplanes is clearly a theatrical act that does not need any effort to uncover or define the roles of its heroes after U.S. and Egyptian officials made successive contradictory statements in this regard and after U.S. newspapers had admitted that the hijacking was the result of the Egyptian regime's collusion with the U.S. Administration. This is what *THE WASHINGTON POST* frankly indicated a few hours after the air piracy.

Just as the air piracy, with its dramatic events, was clear and exposed, the aims of those involved in it became well known, too. With this piracy, the U.S. Administration wanted to flex its muscles and frighten anyone who might think of confronting America and Israel. The Egyptian regime tried, by colluding with America in this unsuccessful theatrical act, to prove its good intentions toward both the United States and Israel. It also sought to prove that it is still the obedient servant of U.S. schemes in the region. by giving his blessing to this operation, 'Arafat wanted to obtain a U.S.-Israeli certificate of good conduct that would qualify him to joint the bandwagon of a U.S. peace settlement.

The hijacking of the Egyptian airliner underlined the extent of humiliation from which Egypt is suffering under Camp David, for it not only lost the right to sovereignty and self-defense as well as a hijacked Egyptian plane, but also did not even dare to condemn the United States in its various statements. The harshest word it used was surprise at the interception of the Egyptian plane by unidentified planes. Hence, the new theatrical being acted out by the Camp David regime in Egypt, through collusion with 'Arafat and the United States, will not enhance the Egyptian regime's status nor extricate it from the bottleneck in which it is stuck. All the evidence shows that the Arab people of Egypt, who are rebelling these days against the Camp David plot and the Israeli presence in Egypt, will not be deceived by the clear and humiliating game of collusion in the hijacking of the Egyptian plane. This game will give them an incentive to promote their uprising, escalate their struggle, and continue their revolutionary march toward toppling Camp David, destroying its shackles, and liberating Egypt from any trace of it.

The flexing of U.S. muscle will not weaken the strugglers who made up their minds to confront the U.S. aggression and its tools in the region and to topple the capitulatory schemes and the plot to liquidate the Paelstine question.

'Arafat, Mubarak, U.S. Collude in Ship Hijack

JN131946 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] *THE NEW YORK TIMES* has written about collusion among the United States, Mubarak's regime, Yasir 'Arafat, and Italy concerning the hijacking of the Egyptian plane. We believe that the collusion among 'Arafat, Mubarak, and the United States existed even during the hijacking of the Italian ship. The gunmen of so-called Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] would have not been able to board the Italian ship at Alexandria had the Egyptian authorities not colluded with them. Likewise, the Egyptian authorities would not have permitted them to board the ship without U.S. approval.

Why did these parties collude? The answer will become clear within the next few hours or day when Husni Mubarak pretends that, considering the dilemma 'Arafat and his clique are facing and Tunisia's inability to protect 'Arafat, it will host 'Arafat's leadership and forces in Egypt. 'Arafat needs this so that when he enters negotiations on a settlement based on Camp David he will guarantee control over the elements supporting him. In return, 'Arafat will exploit the measure expected from Mubarak's regime and call for Egypt's return to the Arab fold. Hence, the whole matter is a tactical maneuver in which Husni Mubarak sacrifices Egyptian national dignity and accepts the U.S. insult for the sake of carrying out an agreed plan between Mubarak and 'Arafat that is blessed by the White House.

The Egyptian masses who staged angry demonstrations in Cairo's streets realize this fact. They expressed the logical popular reaction to such a crime.

But to what extent is there awareness of the collusion among the Camp David parties — collusion that the Israeli raid on 'Arafat's headquarters in Al-Hammamat may be part of, as proved by the doubts cast by 'Arafat's change of direction prior to the raid and his heading for the office of Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, instead of heading for his own headquarters. Tunisia was unable to protect 'Arafat, so Mubarak stood up to defend the PLO. But why does Mubarak not stand up to confront the insult, whether made by Israel or the United States? Why does Mubarak not confront the Israeli-U.S. piracy with an appropriate reply that conforms to the Egyptian people's traditions and national feelings instead of embracing those plotting against the Palestine question?

Stand on Terrorism Reiterated

JN121244 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: The seizure of the Italian cruise liner has worsened and turned into a problem that even affects relations among the parties to the Camp David accord, part one1, as well as its second part represented by the Amman agreement.

Syria's stand on the armed seizure of the vessel near Port Said was, from the first moment, a frank and clear stand stemming from Syria's principled stand on kidnapping defenseless people and seizing hostages and similar acts that harm strugglers for freedom, the right to self-determination, and lofty principles for which national liberation movements of all peoples, including our Arab people, fight.

From the beginning, Syria warned of the unclean hands that planned the seizure of the Italian vessel as well as the evil intentions that dictated the plan. Syria has also warned that such acts can only benefit Israel and all the enemies of the Arabs. Syria took a positive stand throughout the contacts held with it regarding the ship. President Hafiz al-Asad, who was on an official and cordial visit to the CSSR, agreed to discuss the matter with the Italian ambassador in Prague. The president also received a telephone call from Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti during which the Italian minister repeatedly expressed the Italian Government's heartfelt gratitude for Syria's help, cooperation, and stand on the Italian vessel affair.

If the act of the armed men who seized the ship, the act of those who planned the operation, and the objectives of those who stand behind the entire operation are condemned, the conclusion which the operation has reached has also raised a number of questions about the legality and legitimacy of the acts of other parties in this operation. The end of the operation also provides new lessons for the Arab parties that placed or want to place their cards in the U.S. and Israeli basket.

If some individuals who committed a shameful act by seizing a passenger ship and holding unarmed passengers were condemed and denounced, how can we describe the act of a superpower when it violates international law and intercepts a passenger plane in international airspace? If hijacking a ship is an act that deserves condemnation and punishment, how can we describe usurpation of the Palestinian homeland and displacement of the Arab Palestinian people? What punishment should be exacted on the usurpers and those behind displacement? What will those who are sitting in the shadow of the U.S. eagle's wing say about the serious harm done to Egypt from the hijacking of the Egyptian plane and about the serious harm intentionally done to Egypt's president?

Terrorism is condemned, particularly if it is terrorism committed by a state through its regular forces. Yes, terrorism is condemned, particulalry if it is terrorism committed by a state through its regular forces as Israel always does and as other countries intend to do.

Cancellation of UK-PLO Meeting Viewed

JN141849 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1825 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] London — The British government has canceled the meeting scheduled to be held earlier today between the so-called Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation and Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs. Diplomatic circles in London said the cancellation of the meeting with the joint delegation is another slap in the face of those who are dreaming of separate solutions and comes in wake of the scandalous Israeli aggression against Tunisian territory, the U.S. air piracy operation against the Egyptian civilian plane, and the recent farce of the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner.

Geoffrey Howe announced the cancellation of the meeting today, explaining that the Palestinian representatives in the joint delegation, Milhim and Iliya Khuri, had retracted previous pledges made to the British prime minister during her recent visit to Aqaba. These pledges state that 'Arafat and his clique would explicitly recognize Israel's right to exist and to live within secure and recognized borders. Howe said: In these circumstances, we have decided that there is no possibility of a meeting with the joint delegation at the present time. He announced that he would meet only with the Jordanian members of the joint delegation.

'Thousands' of Syrian Workers Expelled From Libya

JN121808 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The REUTER news agency says that the Libyan Jamahiriyah has expelled between 10,000 and 20,000 Syrian workers over the past 10 weeks as an expression of its displeasure with Syria's role in Lebanon. Official sources in Damascus and Tripoli have not referred to such reports in any way whatsoever.

'Sources' Exclude Strike Against Jordan PLO Bases

TA111055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Oct 85 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpt] Last night, political sources emphasized that Israel would not take any military action against the PLO headquarters in Jordan, certainly not on the eve of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres'trip to the United States next week for talks with President Reagan, despite the fact that several Likud members in the Inner Cabinet believe that military action against these bases in Jordan will become inevitable if terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens and Jewish targets overseas continue to escalate.

The political sources stressed that it is clear beyond any doubt that these headquarters — in which attacks against Israel by local groups of inhabitants of the territories are planned, organized, and financed — enjoy the patronage of King Husayn. Nevertheless, there will be no military operation against Jordan because it is clear that it would totally destroy the efforts to resume the political process between Israel and Jordan.

The sources explained that during his talks in Washington, Peres will urge the leaders of the U.S. Administration to exert pressure on Husayn to remove the headquarters from his country because that is where terrorist attacks against Israel are planned, as proved in the elimination of the terrorist squad in the southern part of Mount Hebron last week. It has emerged that the members of this squad had been in contact with PLO elements in Jordan and had even obtained assistance from them. The sources added that Israel may present the removal of the PLO headquarters from Jordan as a condition for resuming the negotiations on the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Syrians Fire Rocket at Plane 'Few Days Ago'

TA140549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] A few days ago, Syrian soldiers fired a shoulder-held rocket at an Israeli aircraft flying over the Golan Heights. The rocket missed. Israel has complained about the incident to UNDOF [UN Disengagement Observation Force], as our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Begin Tal recording] Although the incident was grave and involved a violation of the disengagement agreement, the IDF is inclined to believe that the rocket firing does not indicate any change in Syrian policy. The Syrians claim that the shooting was a result of a local initiative. After Israel had complained, the Syrians carried out an investigation, apologized, and explained that the incident involved a junior officer who consulted no one when deciding to shoot.

The Syrians have, in Al-Biqa' and on the Golan, a missile set-up which, at least in terms of its firing range, can threaten the Air Force overflights in the Golan and northern Israel. However, thus far the Syrians have adhered to their policy of not trying to hit our planes.

Let us mention at this point that the introduction of such arms as shoulder-held rockets, one of which was shot at an Air Force plane a few days ago in the disengagement area, is forbidden by the disengagement accords. Israel has requested that the UN headquarters on the Golan Heights investigate such Syrian violations and other breaches of the agreement, such as the introduction of units into the disengagement area. The Syrians also have long-range SAM-5's, which until just a short time ago were manned by Soviet teams, but the operation of which was handed over to Syrian teams a few months ago. [end recording]

Most IDF Infantry Units Withdrawn From Territories

TA121940 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Most of the IDF regular infantry units which were brought into Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza about a month ago have left the territories and returned to routine activity. Our military correspondent reports that several regular units have remained there, but the intention is to maintain a relatively small presence in the future so as to diminish the friction with the local population.

Ports 'Prepared To Tackle' Terrorist Attacks

TA121032 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu says that the Israeli ports system is prepared to tackle terrorist attacks staged from ships. He believes that if the *Achille Lauro* had reached the port of Ashdod with the terrorists and the hostages on board, Israel would have dealt with them in the appropriate manner. The transportation minister was speaking to our correspondent Eytan Almog.

Cabinet Meets, Discusses Egypt, Peres' U.S. Trip

TA131204 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Report by correspondent Hayim Zissowitz outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 13 October following the weekly Cabinet session — live]

[Text] This week's Cabinet session was held in the shadow of the hijacking of the Italian ship and the murder of the American Jewish passenger on board. It was held against the background of the increasing tension between Egypt and the United States, which it can be assumed also has an effect on Israel and following the return of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from the UN General Assembly and before Prime Minister Shim'on Peres leaves for Washington. These are the subjects which were discussed in today's meeting.

At the opening of the session, the prime minister reported on the verbal message sent to him by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak via Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni. The message was intended to reduce considerably the tension between the two countries as a result of the murder of the seven

Israeli tourists in Ra's al-Burqa'. The message does not contain a clear promise as to when the investigation of the murder will be completed, but the Egyptian president promises to do this as soon as possible and to transmit all the facts of the case to the prime minister. President Mubarak has promised Mr Peres that Egypt is no less concerned than Israel, and has promised or proposed to abstain from making any statement that might complicate the matter.

Another issue which was raised during the session was Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' trip to Washington. Minister Moshe Arens requested that a political discussion be held prior to the trip. The prime minister responded that there was no need for a political discussion, saying that nothing will change, the latest incidents have strengthened Israel's position, and it is better not to discuss it.

Following the meeting, Cabinet secretary Yosi Beilin said:

[Begin recording] In today's Cabinet session, the prime minister reported on his planned trip to the United States, Vienna, and Paris. He reported that during his talks, the following subjects, among others, will be raised: the opening of the gates of the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate; the continuation of the peace process; the fight against terrorism; the exposure of PLO propaganda and its direct link to the latest incidents; and the political cooperation with the United States in the future. [end recording]

Minister Yosef Shapira submitted a query to the prime minister in the wake of a report published last week concerning a document that had been prepared before Edgar Bronfman's departure for the Soviet Union. According to the report, the document mentioned Israel's readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights in stages and to transfer sovereignty there to Syria once the process was completed. In his reply, the prime minister said he was amazed at the fact that the Golan inhabitants, and not only they, condemned the document without making an effort to first check the accuracy of the report with his office. As for the matter itself, Peres said that the reports are incorrect. He had not asked Bronfman to raise the matter of the Golan Heights during his trip to the Soviet Union, and the subject did not come up. The document mentioned was prepared without the knowledge of the Prime Minister's Office.

The Cabinet this morning also approved Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein's trip to England. Minister Rubinstein leaves tomorrow at the invitation of the Jewish organizations there, and he will be the main speaker at a conference there against the backdrop of the invitation of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to meet with the British foreign secretary.

The Cabinet, in its capacity as a ministerial committee on security affairs, also heard a review by the defense minister on security matters, including the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro*. There was no debate on this matter.

Peres' Items for Discussion During U.S. Visit

To Use Hijack To Block PLO Role

TA130820 Jerusalem The JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Oct 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Michael Eilan]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Peres is expected to press the advantages gained in the *Achille Lauro* affair and convince President Reagan that the PLO has finally ruled itself out as a potential partner in the peace process.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's involvement in the affair and the successful American intervention against Middle East terrorism have created a climate in which, the officials say, Israeli leaders should be able to convince the U.S. to unequivocally dismiss the prospect of even indirect PLO participation in the peace process.

'Arafat's role in the hijack has, in the eyes of Israeli officials, smeared him with a tarbrush because of the murder of wheelchair-bound American passenger Leon Klinghoffer. Officials here hope the image will last, though, experts say, the alliance between 'Arafat and the group which committed the hijack was a marriage of convenience.

The Abu al'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] faction of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) did not give 'Arafat much control over its actions in their alliance.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said last night that Peres, who leaves on Tuesday for a 12-day tour of Europe and the U.S., will try to convince Reagan that now that the PLO is out of the picture, it is the right time to push ahead for peace talks with Jordan and non-PLO affiliated Palestinians.

It is likely that Peres will unveil a more detailed approach to the peace process after his October 17 meeting with Reagan when he addresses the UN General Assembly October 21.

To Propose New Territories Plan

TA130857 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Oct 85 p 2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el and Yesha'yahu Avi'am]

[Excerpt] A plan for improved self-administration in the territories will be raised in the talks between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and leaders of the U.S. Administration.

An expanded plan has been worked out based on the principles set forth in the Camp David accords. The goal is maximum self-administration for the Arabs of the territories and minimum Israeli involvement in the affairs of the inhabitants of the area.

Contrary to the political ideas advocated by the Likud governments, Prime Minister Peres perceives the improved self-administration as a kind of "admission ticket" to talks on the future of the area among Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian representatives from the territories.

The plan's authors believe Jordan's present situation is such that it must in one way or another enter a dialogue with Israel on the future of the territories and that a self-administration scheme that meets the main demands of the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will make it easier for Jordan to enter political talks.

Other issues to be discussed by the prime minister and the U.S. Administration are: strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States, cooperation on the issue of PLO terror, the economic situation in Israel, and the predicament of Soviet Jews.

Examining Interim Peace With Jordan

TA131925 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] During his visit to the United States Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will try to examine the possibility of implementing an interim stage in the settlement between Israel and Jordan without the PLO's participation. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir has learned that Mr Peres estimates it is impossible to reach an overall peace settlement with Jordan at this stage. Reference is to settlement which is based on the autonomy plan and which will be implemented by the end of 1985. Mr Peres will try to check the extent of the U.S. Administration's readiness to introduce such a move in the framework of a Jordanian-Israeli settlement without the PLO.

The main clarifications Peres will hold will be with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and a reliable source defined these talks as the most important talks which the prime minister will have in Washington.

Peres Meets With Demonstrators on Eve of Departure

TA141855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpts] The Peace Now Movement and a coalition of Gush Emunim and the Tehiya Party held parallel demonstrations outside the Prime Minister's Office tonight. A delegation from each side met briefly with Peres to present their views on the eve of his trip to the United States. Dan Eisenberg reports:

There was no marked tension or hostility in the air, but it is clear that both sides regard Peres' trip and this period as of critical importance to the future of the country, and that intensity was felt tonight. The result was a great deal of symbolism, only some of it intentional. There was a flutter of flags and skullcaps at the Gush Emunim-Tehiya demonstration. The Peace Now gathering was marked by candles and bare heads. The slogan of the Gush Emunim-Tehiya meeting was: The land of Israelis not for sale. Peace Now's words were: Yes to Husayn, seek peace.

Both sides claimed that their demonstration was bigger, and it was obvious that that meant a great deal for each, but the estimations of many observers was that each group had roughly the same number of supporters.

Cites Agenda, Departs

TA150550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Report by Hayim Zissowitz — live]

[Excerpt] The sounds of the national anthem have just ended, and the prime minister has boarded an Air Force helicopter on his way to Ben-Gurion Airport, from where he will take off to Austria and later to Washington. For the first time the farewell ceremony was held in the Jerusalem Rose Garden, rather than at Ben-Gurion Airport, as was the custom. Despite this, however, all the usual symbols were there: the red carpet, the long line of dignitaries from whom Mr Peres took his leave, after which he took the podium and made the following remarks:

[Begin Peres recording] I want to express my joy over the fact that this ceremony is being held for the first time in Jerusalem's Rose Garden, in our capital where we receive our guests and from which we give them our farewell blessings. I leave for the United States with the continuation of the fight against terrorism, the continuation of the peace process, the renewal of economic growth, the strengthening of the ties between us and the United States, and an issue which is particularly close to our hearts: the chances for, the desire, and the efforts to open the gates of the Soviet Union to Jewish immigration to Israel, all on the agenda.

In my opinion, terrorism was the greatest obstacle on the way to peace, and therefore the curtailment or removal of this obstacle does not contradict the desire for peace. I believe that Israel has recently enjoyed I would not say achievements, but at least witnessing the truth it voiced become an international truth. [end recording]

To Meet With CIA's Casey

TA130949 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Oct 85 p 1

["Exclusive" report from the United States by Amir Oren]

[Excerpt] Washington — CIA Director William Casey will confer with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on Wednesday, a short time before Peres meets President Reagan at the White House. The meeting does not appear on Peres' official agenda and the time set for it is marked as being for a "private meeting." Although Israeli prime ministers regularly meet CIA directors during visits in Washington, the meeting between Peres and Casey will this time come against the backdrop of reports in the U.S. press about intelligence cooperation in the Israeli Air Force raid in Tunis and the U.S. interception of the Egyptian airliner.

Peres Adviser on Trip to U.S., PLO, Jordan

TA132100 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Interview in the studio with Dr Nimrod Novik, policy adviser to the prime minister, by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir — live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Good evening to you, Dr Novik. If we take a short leave from the recent flow of terrorist incidents, murders, and the hijacking of the Italian ship, could you define the PLO's political status today?

[Novik] I think the PLO went too far, also from the point of view of those circles which are more friendly and forgiving toward it. Here I refer to circles in West Europe, and not only to circles in the United States which had preceded others in their awareness of the link between the PLO and some of the more brutal acts perpetrated lately. It seems to me that the PLO went too far, and my judgment relies on recent communications media reports and initial nuances which herald a change in public opinion in these countries.

[Ahime'ir] In other words, there is a change in attitude toward the PLO in West Europe, at least.

[Novik] It seems so. It seems that this combination of rather convincing information, as much as this information can be made public, about the direct link between the PLO leadership and the terrorist acts, on the one hand, and the blatant lies of this leadership in an attempt to cover these acts up, to deny any link to them, on the other, the cynicism involved, is beginning to take root in public opinion in West Europe as well.

[Ahime'ir] Can a distinction be drawn on this issue between the United States and West Europe?

[Novik] It is clear that the United States is more resolved and active in the antiterror war, and hence less forgiving regarding the PLO's involvement in terror, but it seems to me that if any distinction exists between them it is one of timetable really. It may take Europe a little longer to recognize the same facts but, basically, it seems to me that the PLO went too far, even among its friends.

[Ahime'ir] Dr Novik, you will be in the party which will escort the prime minister on his trip to the United States and West Europe. It is to be assumed that the prime minister, at least during his talks in Washington, will try to separate those who cling to each other, such as King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. In the light of what you have just said about the PLO, will the prime minister be able to materialize his aspiration? Is it possible to realize this aspiration?

[Novik] It is surely possible to realize this aspiration in the U.S. arena where awareness of the PLO's role as an obstacle to peace is quite high today.

[Ahime'ir] But is it possible from the point of view of a political settlement between Jordan and us?

[Novik] This is the other side of the coin, of course. I am not at all sure it is possible to do this. We assess or hope so. This is an almost sine qua non condition for us to make significant and rapid progress in the peace process. Whether the potential senior partner we have will accept this, whether this partner too recognizes that the PLO is the obstacle to the continuation of the peace process, this I cannot tell. We will surely make a supreme effort to bring this to the attention of the U.S. public, to the shapers of public opinion. This is one of the major tasks the prime minister undertakes in this visit of his.

[Ahime'ir] Finally, it is no secret, since U.S. papers reported that Israeli intelligence sources greatly aided the United States in intercepting the plane which carried the terrorists. Can you confirm that there is a strategic cooperation in the antiterror war between Israel and the United States?

[Novik] Israel and the United States, these two countries which lead the antiterror struggle and not only in rhetoric but in deed as well, are naturally aware of the need for international cooperation for an efficient antiterror action. Hence the cooperation between the two, which was not generated by recent events. As for the last event, it seems to me that there is a great deal of exaggeration in the claims that we had known in advance, that we had cooperated in advance. This is far from being true; we did not know, we were surprised, but favorably so. However, general antiterror cooperation exists and we also share a strong desire to strengthen and expand it to include many other countries as well.

UK Cancels Meeting With Palestinian Delegates

UK Embassy Informs Foreign Ministry

TA141325 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the British Embassy in Israel has informed the Foreign Ministry of the cancellation of the meeting with the Palestinian members of the joint delegation because they refused to endorse, as was agreed in advance, a statement containing the recognition of Israel's right to exist, and a condemnation of terrorism. Nevertheless, Sir Geoffrey Howe conferred with the two Jordanian representatives in the delegation, Jordan's deputy prime minister and its foreign minister.

Foreign Ministry Responds

TA150743 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 14 Oct 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman has communicated the following response to the events that took place in London today regarding the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation:

"We have received with satisfaction the notification of the cancellation of the meeting with the representatives of the terrorist organization. The sequence of events in London demonstrates that there was no basis to the credit which was given to the PLO representatives who see in terror the only means by which to advance their goals. It is regrettable that a respected Western government was being misled by unfounded hopes. This current development strengthens the position of the Government of Israel which calls for direct negotiations with Jordan."

Peres 'Not Surprised'

TA141415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that he is not surprised at the cancellation of the meeting between the PLO members and Britain's foreign secretary. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that following a talk with a delegation from Latin American countries at Bet Berl, Mr Peres said that at the time Mrs Thatcher had announced that when the PLO members arrived in London, they would add their signatures to two statements, one rejecting terrorism, and the other supporting peace. At that time, Mr Peres added, I had asked why it was necessary to wait until they arrived in London.

'Sources' Express Satisfaction

TA141320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem have expressed satisfaction over the cancellation of the meeting between the British foreign secretary and the two PLO members in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. During their talks at the United Nations, Foreign Minister Shamir had expressed to his British counterpart Israel's protest over the planned meeting.

After announcing the cancellation of the meeting with the two PLO members, the British foreign secretary stated that he would confer with the two Jordanian personalities in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation: Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Morning Press on Cancellation

TA150820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 15 Oct 85

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *DAVAR* writes that it is still too early to assess how the Husayn-'Arafat agreement will be affected by recent developments such as the cancellation of the meeting with the PLO representatives in London, the cancellation of the meeting between the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the EEC, and the foiling of the initiative to invite Yasir 'Arafat to address the UN General Assembly. It is hard to say whether the Jordanian king will dare to advance along the road of peace together with Palestinian representatives who are not PLO members, or whether he will be deterred due to opposition from other Arab countries. These doubts are no excuse for Mr Peres not to continue to emphasize Israel's desire to further such a positive process during his upcoming talks in Washington and, before then, in the Socialist International session in Vienna.

HA'ARETZ writes that Mrs Thatcher could have spared herself the slap in the face she received. The other EEC governments will be well advised to draw the lesson from the humiliation suffered by the British Government. They had better not be dragged along by the advice of experts who try to find cracks in the PLO's wall of rejectionism. The crack which the British claimed to have found was actually an optical illusion. One can express regrets over this. Those who counted on Milhim and Khuri, however, proved they do not see the situation clearly.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the PLO, which has assumed the honorary title of representative of the Palestinian people and the only party qualified to talk in its name, is not entitled to the respect of the world's nations, and even less so to the respect of its own people. A solution to the Palestinian problem, even a radical solution which is not widely supported in Israel, will necessarily call for the removal of the present leadership and inflated staff of the PLO. This leadership and the staff under it, therefore, have no interest in a solution or an arrangement. The Palestinian people should take advantage of the diplomatic and military failures of the organization which claims to represent it, but which actually only deepens its subjugation, to hand its future over to a new political leadership, a leadership which will find the flexibility, realism, and courage which are necessary for peace, because only peace will serve the Palestinian's interests and destroy the PLO.

Peres 'Temporarily Freezing' Mubarak Summit Plans

TA130851 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Oct 85 p 7

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is temporarily freezing plans for a summit meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in the near future. This decision was made in the wake of Mubarak's handling of the murder at Ra's al-Burqu' and his cooperation with Yasir 'Arafat in the Italian ship affair.

Speaking at a closed forum, Peres described Mubarak's behavior as disappointing. He criticized the insensitivity demonstrated by the Egyptian president in his reaction to the murder.

Peres intends to personally steer the handling of relations with Egypt. It seems that in this context he will put an end to the courtings of Minister 'Ezer Weizman and of the director of his office, Avraham Tamir. Peres is angry over the fact that the Egyptians decided to suspend the talks of the ministerial directors over Tabah before the Israeli Air Force operation in Tunis, but claimed that it was suspending the talks because of the Israeli raid.

Peres Reports 'Arafat Not To Address UN

TA132020 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will apparently not deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly, according to reports which have reached Jerusalem. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir has learned that in today's Cabinet meeting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres observed that following various contacts it seems that an agreement has been reached whereby 'Arafat will not be allowed to speak in the United Nations.

Our correspondent in the United States adds that contacts continued in the UN building over the weekend with the aim of preventing a draft resolution on inviting 'Arafat to the UN General Assembly. It is the United States which is leading these contacts.

Peres Reiterates Appreciation for U.S. Action

TA131837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says President Reagan's action to capture the hijackers of the *Achille Lauro* was a courageous, honest, and responsible deed. The prime minister was speaking in Jerusalem to a United Jewish Appeal mission from the United States. Dan Eisenberg reports:

Prime Minister Peres expressed his appreciation to Reagan for the fact that Israel is no longer alone in the war against terrorism.

[Begin Peres recording] I believe that the action upon which President Reagan has decided to take to intercept the Egyptian plane is a turning point. It is a matter of courage, honesty, and responsibility. [end recording]

The prime minister warned that terrorism and peace could not coexist. It is a question of either-or, said Peres.

[Begin Peres recording] We feel that either the peace chances will bring an end to terror, or terror will bring an end to the chances of peace. There is no middle way. [end recording]

The prime minister said that terrorists had singled out and separated Jews from other passengers, just as the Nazis had done. Israel will neither stand for such deeds nor forgive them, said the prime minister.

Shamir Returns, Praises U.S. Action Against Terror

TA111825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1805 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the capture of the terrorists will reveal the true face of the PLO. Shamir was speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport on his return home from a trip to the U.S. Shamir went on to say that there was an American attitude of distrust and disaffection with Egypt's role in the hijacking crisis.

[Begin Shamir recording] I think that the latest developments in this affair of the Italian ship are very positive and very favorable with respect to the understanding of the American Government and the American public of the real character of the PLO and of all the terrorist organizations in our area. The success of the United States Government in getting their hands on these criminals will encourage in the United States all these elements who are very interested in strengthening the American participation in this struggle against international terrorism. [end recording]

Further Comments

TA111910 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1815 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Foreign Minister and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the United States and Israel are allies in the antiterror fight. Upon his return today from talks in New York and Washington, Minister Shamir said that after his political talks he is not surprised by the U.S. reaction to the hijacking of the Italian line. He added that the interception of the plane with the ship hijackers is a tremendous U.S. success. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir talked with the vice prime minister at Ben-Gurion Airport.

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] Mr Foreign Minister, what would you like to see done to the four terrorists who are being held in Sicily now?

[Shamir] I would not like to dictate the verdict to the Italian court which will try them. However, a trial should first be held; they should first be tried. I hope they will not be released before the ruling in their case is handed down; I also hope they will not be released before their sentence is implemented.

[Ahime'ir] You are now returning from talks in Washington and in New York. What is your impression of the current U.S. Administration's attitude toward the PLO?

[Shamir] Very negative. There were doubts at the beginning; there was a desire to show that the ship hijacking affair was not carried out by PLO members. Some might have entertained the covert hope that this affair involved other people. However, the link, the identity of the people involved, has become increasingly clear. Today it is much clearer, I would say to Congress more than to other circles, what the PLO really is.

[Ahime'ir] In light of this, what view do you still take of the U.S. initiative to incorporate Jordan in a Palestinian delegation to any political process?

[Shamir] I believe this is largely dependent on Israel's stance.

[Ahime'ir] What does this mean?

[Shamir] This means that if Israel firmly insists on its positions, the PLO will not be included in the framework of peace negotiations in the region, nor will the condition of an international conference instead of direct negotiations be accepted. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the United States is resolved to sell arms to Jordan. Mr Shamir said there are clear differences of opinion between Israel and the United States on this matter.

Shamir on 'Arafat at UN, Ties With Poland

TA140603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Hayim Zissowitz on 13 October; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] Ever since the sad and unfortunate incident in Ra's al-Burqa', Egypt has shown interest in relieving itself of the responsibility it shoulders for this grave incident in the Sinai. This explains all the appeasement efforts. Among them was the message I received today saying that they are continuing their investigation and that they will bring the results of their investigation to our attention as soon as it is over. They have asked us for some information that could help them complete their investigation.

[Zissowitz] As for the international arena, are you not frustrated to see that, the PLO's serious attacks notwithstanding, a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is still being invited to Britain and Italy is releasing two PLO leaders?

[Shamir] I am not frustrated. There are all sorts of views and differences of approach between us and many elements in the world. On the contrary, one could say that during the last few days of my stay in the United States, I could both see and feel the fury directed against the terrorist organizations and the PLO. As for Britain, the invitation of the PLO leaders was decided upon by the British prime minister some time ago, before all the latest incidents. Israel has protested this move most strongly.

[Zissowitz] But still, the United Nations is about to invite Yasir 'Arafat?

[Shamir] I hope this will not come about. We know the United Nations, we have known that institution for some time, and we are familiar with its composition. Nevertheless, due to the latest events, there is now a chance that even in this organization there will be some forces which will be strong enough to prevent the shame of his appearance.

[Zissowitz] During the Cabinet session, you hinted that some developments may well take place regarding ties with Poland. Could you elaborate?

[Shamir] It was no hint. I said that Israel's and Poland's framework for ties has been in existence for approximately 1 year, and that there is an agreement on the desire to shape some sort of framework for more formal relations between us and Poland. However, this will be determined in the next few weeks.

Shamir Briefs Cabinet on Talks With Bloc Officials

TA140932 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Oct 85 p 2

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expects a marked improvement in Israeli-Polish ties in the next few months. In briefing the Cabinet on his meetings with the foreign ministers of 37 countries during his U.S. visit, Shamir stressed that following his friendly meeting with the Polish foreign minister, an agreement was reached on making further efforts to allow for bilateral cultural, trade, and tourism ties. The suggestions involved, among others, mutual visits by Israeli and Polish delegations. Shamir claimed that at this stage there was no mention of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, but he nevertheless expressed the hope that the resumption of cultural, trade, and tourism ties between the two countries will be the first step toward the renewal of diplomatic relations.

Shamir pointed out that there is also a chance for improved ties with Hungary. He claimed that in his meeting with the Hungarian foreign minister, they discussed the possibility of establishing cultural and trade ties. On the other hand, Bulgaria has expressed no change in its anti-Israeli position, and for the moment showed no interest in improving bilateral ties.

Shamir added that in his talks with ministers from East European, Asian, and African countries which have no diplomatic relations with Israel, he formed the impression that the international mood and sentiments toward Israel have improved. Shamir noted that he held a difficult meeting with the British foreign secretary, in which he protested the British-Saudi arms deal and the invitation extended to PLO members to hold talks in London. He also referred to his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid which, although held in a friendly atmosphere, attained no results.

Shamir emphasized that the U.S. Administration has not yet fully worked out its position on the nature of the international forum that will work toward promoting Middle East peace. He claimed that the United States is determined to supply Jordan with arms, but at the same time he noted that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres can be expected to encounter a friendly atmosphere when he visits the United States.

Shamir Receives Egypt's Basyuni, Mubarak Message

TA132023 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today received the interim results of Egypt's investigation on the murder of seven Israelis in Ra's al-Burqa'. Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni this evening held a short meeting with Minister Shamir on this, but noted that Egypt's investigation is not over yet. At the same time, the Egyptian diplomat asked that Israel put at Egypt's disposal all the material which concerns this affair.

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which the latter promises to present to Mr Peres all the facts connected with the murder of the Israelis in Ra's al-Burqa'. Our correspondent has learned that President Mubarak expressed the hope that declarations which may complicate this matter rather than calm tensions will not be made. A source in the Prime Minister's Office told our correspondent that in this sentence the Egyptian president is probably referring to himself only.

Mubarak To Personally Follow Sinai Investigation

TA131001 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0956 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] In a verbal message to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak promises to personally follow the investigation of the tragic incident in the Sinai. Mubarak uses the words tragic incident in his message to Peres. Mubarak also expresses his concern about the incident in the Sinai, and points out that he is no less concerned than Israel. He expresses the hope that no statements are made which might complicate the matter and relations between Israel and Egypt rather than cool down the situation.

U.S. Reportedly Given Information on Al-'Abbas

TA130951 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Oct 85 p 1

["Exclusive" report from the United States by Amir Oren]

[Excerpt] Washington — Over the weekend, Israel supplied the United States with information about the involvement of Muhammad 'Abbas (alias Abu al-'Abbas) in terrorist activities, in a last-minute bid to prevent Italy from releasing him and to enhance the U.S. chances of extraditing him.

The United States and Israel concentrated their efforts on Abu al-'Abbas after U.S. legal experts concluded there is no real chance that Italy will extradite the hijackers of the *Achille Lauro*. The United States wants to emerge from the hijacking affair with at least one suspect who either was directly responsible for or commanded the attack. Israel wants to strengthen the missing link between the four hijackers and the PLO leadership and Yasir 'Arafat personally. Abu al-'Abbas could be that link, at least concerning other attacks in the past.

Senior Intelligence Officer on 'Abbas, Terror

TA131950 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Interview with Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, a senior IDF Intelligence Corps officer, by Arab affairs correspondent Shlomo Gal'or on 13 October; in Hebrew; in the television studio — videotaped]

[Text] [Gilbo'a] The organization of Abu al'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] within the PLO framework is the organization closest to the 'Arafat-led Fatah. It is aided and apparently also financed by the Fatah. Abu al-'Abbas' command is located in Tunis, in Hamman al-Shatt, near 'Arafat's command which was bombed by the Israeli Air Force planes. Therefore, I would say with almost absolute certainty that Al-'Abbas' organization is almost an integral part of the 'Arafat-led Fatah organization.

[Gal'or] Are we witnessing the revival of a new wave of terror in Europe in the wake of the Air Force operation in Tunis?

[Gilbo'a] First, we surely are witnessing a Palestinian wave of terror abroad. However, it began long before the Air Force operation in Tunis. We know of the organizing of Fatah terror squads in Europe during the last 6 months. I would say that one of the most outstanding and ruthless manifestations of this terror was the murder of the three Israelis in Larnaca. Let me point out that before this, too, it was known and publicized that Fatah members were captured in various places in Europe together with their arms and sabotage materials.

[Gal'or] What is your forecast? Will these actions increase in the future?

[Gilbo'a] I think so, since I believe, although I am not absolutely certain about this, that the PLO, under 'Arafat's leadership, or, to be more precise, the Fatah organization, decided to revoke a decision in principle it made in 1974 to refrain from hostile terrorist activity abroad. It has decided, and I am not sure exactly when, to renew this activity abroad. I assume that the wave of Fatah terror in Europe, or at least, its intention to carry out terror acts, will increase, mainly because there are many targets, including Jewish ones, and it is relatively easy for it to do so.

[Gal'or] Will there be only Jewish and Israeli targets on its line, or will there be other Western targets?

[Gilbo'a] Absolutely other Western targets as well, and, I would say, also targets of Arab elements which are opposed to the Fatah, with which the Fatah needs to settle accounts. I assume that the Americans will be a main target, on top of other European elements.

[Gal'or] Is this estimation or forecast about an increase in the wave of terror known also to European countries?

[Gilbo'a) I assume so, certainly.

[Gal'or] What view should one take of the U.S. interception of the Egyptian aircraft?

[Gilbo'a] I view the very act of interception, or more precisely, the U.S. Administration's decision to carry out this act, as a great contribution to the U.S. antiterror war. I assume that in deciding on this act the Americans considered the possibility that this may create complications for them vis-a-vis Egypt, that this may harm whatever relations they have with the Arab world, and that this may present them to the world public as an international lawbreaker, as a pirate. If, despite all these considerations, which were apparently taken into account, the Americans decided to carry out this act of interception, I think this proves the Americans are aware of the enormous importance of fighting and striking at terror strongly and rapidly.

Arens on Terrorism, Relations With Egypt

TA121223 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Interview with Minister Moshe Arens by Yosi 'Abadi — live in the studio]

[Excerpts] ['Abadi] First let me ask you about the extent of our commitment to the fight against terrorism and to world Jewry. Had the United States not intercepted the airplane carrying the hijackers of the Italian vessel, would Israel have taken any action against them?

[Arens] I cannot comment on the specific action taken by the Americans if what you are asking me is whether we would have made a similar move with the help of our Air Force. However, the commitment certainly exists. I would even go as far as defining our position against terrorism not as a commitment but rather as an obligation to fight terror and defend Israelis, victims of terror in general and Jewish victims in particular. There is no doubt that we would have taken, and we will yet take, measures against the PLO and other terrorist organizations.

['Abadi] I assume that we are pleased with the U.S. action. It seems that the Americans are ambivalent in their attitude toward terrorism; their abstention at the UN Security Council vote reflects another aspect of their attitude.

[Arens] I think for the past 2 years the United States has been consolidating a position and a policy against terrorism, and even for an active war against it. About a year ago, Secretary of State Shultz spoke about the need to carry out preemptive strikes against terrorist bases and terrorists. This is President Reagan's policy and, I would say, even his belief. The United States is not always consistent and that is why we occasionally see digressions, one of them being its abstention at the Security Council.

['Abadi] Can you explain that?

[Arens] The entire world, including the United States, is aware of the explanation. Reagan expressed himself in a courageous, daring, and direct manner regarding the Israeli Air Force operation in Tunis, calling it a legitimate act of self-defense, and lavishing praise on Israeli intelligence for locating the terrorist bases. In the wake of these remarks, I assume that pressure was exerted on the U.S. Administration, particularly by the Arab countries. The Americans claim that they were apprehensive about the stability of Bourguiba's regime in Tunisia. Also, the so-called Arabist circles in the State Department probably argued that it [a U.S. veto] would inflict great damage on the United States. In any event, in a moment of weakness a decision was made — I assume that it was not an easy one and, as far as we are concerned, it was wrong and regrettable — not to veto the UN resolution.

However, I think the long-term trend in U.S. policy is reflected in the interception of the Egyptian plane and its landing in Italy to make sure that the terrorists who seized the Italian ship and who are responsible for the murder of the wheelchair-bound Jewish passenger are punished.

['Abadi] With your permission, I would like to go into the murder at Ra's al-Burqa' and the negligent Egyptian handling of its consequences. Do you not feel somewhat helpless about our ability to deal with what took place there?

[Arens] The Egyptian reaction that this was a minor or trivial incident — as President Mubarak stated — is both saddening and infuriating, particularly in view of the fact that some of the data Cairo has been relaying to us are not correct.

['Abadi] Do you infer from this something about Israel's relations with Egypt, or is this the nature of our neighbors?

[Arens] Look, I think it is no secret that there is a problem with our relationship and we knew that before this incident. This event only emphasized and accentuated this fact.

['Abadi] Does this incident exacerbate the problem?

[Arens] No doubt about it. After all, we know that a soldier rather than a policeman was involved. On its own merit, this fact constitutes a violation of the peace treaty. And this is not the only violation committed by the Egyptians; we know that the man was not insane, but rather an Egyptian holding extremist views. And, to the best of our knowledge, he is not the only Egyptian who holds such views and who thinks that Israelis, even if they are only children, should be killed. I am not speaking about a solution here, but it is imperative that the Egyptian Government and prime minister deal with this problem. They are the ones who should make sure that the peace treaty is not violated, they are the ones who should control the daily provocations in the Egyptian media, and they are the ones who should make sure that such fanatics are not posted in sensitive areas where they would come in contact with Israeli tourists.

['Abadi] What can we do to ensure that?

[Arens] What we can do is limited and I think every Israeli understands why. In the peace treaty, we handed very tangible assets over to Egypt: the entire Sinai, the air and naval bases, the oil, and so on. In exchange, we received a piece of paper, the peace treaty, containing an Egyptian commitment to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with us. In this respect, the Egyptians have been violating the treaty. The only thing we may be able to do, in addition to our demand that they correct these violations and abide by their obligations, is to make plain to the Egyptians that if the violations continue they will not remain one-sided.

MAPAM MK's Meet Arab Mayors on Peace Negotiations

TA122110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Oct 85

[Text] MAPAM Knesset members today conferred with the Gaza, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm mayors and reported that these mayors agreed to call on Israel and the PLO to stop the bloody cycle for 6 months so as to allow for peace negotiations. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that the head of the MAPAM Knesset faction, Haya Grossman, demands that the prime minister give a political statement to the Knesset in the wake of events in the region.

Bethlehem Mayor Urges Truce

TA130604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Bethlehem's Mayor Elias Frayj has strongly condemned the circle of violence between Israel and the Palestinians. He termed recent terror attacks in the territories as criminal and senseless. Speaking to reporter Jerry Cheslow, Mayor Frayj appealed to all sides to lay down their arms for a year so that the peace process could be advanced.

[Begin recording] [Frayj] I want to appeal to every Palestinian Arab, to every Jew and Israeli in the world, to declare a truce, to stop any act of violence, any action to hurt each other for the next 12 months. Let us have a real truce, no acts of violence, no attack, neither in the sea, nor by air, nor in the land; neither in the West Bank, nor in Gaza, nor in Israel, nor in Larnaca, nowhere, so that

Arab leaders and Israeli leaders can think in a proper way. Through this dilemma and crisis, men of wisdom and courage should stand up to intensify their efforts for the success or rather for the start of the peace talks. And, I hope Israeli leaders, Jordanian leaders, and Palestinian leaders will stand up and overcome this crisis of confidence, this crisis of hatred, this crisis of violence by declaring in the United Nations a real truce between the sons of Abraham, the Palestinians and the Israelis.

[Cheslow] In the past, many Palestinians who have made statements similar to yours — 'Isam al-Sartawi among them — have been assassinated.

[Frayj] Well, peace can be achieved and if some price is to be paid for achieving that peace, let it be. [end recording]

Egypt's Khalil on Relations With U.S., Israel

TA131845 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Report on telephone interview with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck on 13 October — recorded; Khalil speaking in English]

[Text] [Beck] Dr Mustafa Khalil told us this afternoon that he does not think that the interception of the Egyptian plane by the Americans and the tension which has developed in Cairo-Washington relations as a result, will have a continual effect on bilateral ties. This, he said, is a temporary crisis which time will cure.

[Khalil] I don't think that the two leaders really would like to have a crisis. On the contrary, we look at it as an unhappy incident, and I think that it is to the...

[Beck interrupts, translates and continues] It would even be in the best interest of the two countries if the differences of opinion are eliminated as quickly as possible. We asked Dr Khalil whether the increase in terrorist acts in recent weeks would affect the peace process which, it seems, received a boost following Husayn's speech at the UN General Assembly.

[Khalil] If it would have a negative influence, we will be running to, you know, the schemes and the plans of the people who are not...

[Beck interrupts, translates and continues] If terror indeed has a negative influence on peace, we will then act according to the plans of those who are not working for peace. We should restrain ourselves with regard to such incidents and work for the achievement of peace. With all sincerity, Khalil said, nobody can accept the air raid on Tunis which has, in the meantime, caused a further escalation in the terror activity. We hope, he said, that in the future all sides will learn that such moves do not serve their goals, and it is our duty to bring about a normalization in Israel-Egypt relations and a solution to pending problems.

As for the stormy student demonstrations in Cairo yesterday, Khalil said they were limited in size, that the several students involved have a right to express their opinion, but that this does not mean that the entire Egyptian public is opposed to peace and to solving problems.

[Khalil] These are very minor incidents and, by analogy, if the Peace Now or the right-wing of Meir Kahane, for instance, who demonstrated...

[Beck, interrupts, translates and continues] These demonstrations do not threaten the stability of the Egyptian regime and are only minor by nature. With a smile noticed in his voice Khalil soothingly said: By comparison, the regime in Israel too does not lose its status in the wake of demonstrations by Peace Now and by Meir Kahane's right-wing people.

FRG President von Weizsaecker Ends Visit

TA112040 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] West German President Richard von Weizsaecker left Israel this afternoon at the end of a 3-day official visit. He was seen off at Ben-Gurion Airport by President Hayim Herzog. Earlier in the day, Von Weizsaecker was present at a ceremony at the Weizman Institute of Science in Rehovot in which an honorary doctorate of philosophy was conferred upon him.

Switzerland Offers Dialogue Aid, Will Not Meet PLO

TA141635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Switzerland's Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert has said that Swiss officials have no intention of meeting representatives of the PLO or of any other Palestinian organization. He noted that Switzerland only recognizes sovereign governments. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that in a news conference in Jerusalem winding up his visit in Israel, Minister Aubert reiterated Switzerland's readiness to put its soil and services at the disposal of any dialogue to settle the conflict in the Middle East.

EEC To Hold Economic Talks With Israel on Schedule

TA150621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] The EEC council for cooperation with Israel will convene next week in Luxembourg, as scheduled. This was told by the EEC representative in Israel, (Niels Westerby), to our correspondent Gid'on Remez. All the foreign ministers of the EEC countries participate in the council for cooperation. Sources in the Foreign Ministry have confirmed that Israel was informed of the planned meeting several days ago, and that Minister Shamir will represent Israel. The EEC had considered canceling the meeting following Israel's attack in Tunisia. Yesterday it was reported that a meeting between an EEC representative and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was canceled.

Tunisian Investigation of Djerba Murders Demanded

TA111520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister and the immigration absorption minister today discussed the deadly blows dealt Jews in Djerba in Tunisia. At the end of their talk it was announced in Jerusalem that Israel demands that the Tunisian Government investigate the affair and bring the culprits to trial.

USSR Entry Visas Refused to Israeli Tourist Group

TA111143 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Oct 85 p 5

[Report by 'Edna Aridor]

[Text] The Soviet authorities are refusing to grant entry visas to 50 Israelis who were scheduled to arrive in the Soviet Union for a 2-week tour on 20 October. The Israeli group was supposed to have joined an international group organized by the Melia Company from Madrid.

The director general of the Melia branch in Tel Aviv, Aharon Kendel, told *HADASHOT* yesterday that registration of the Israeli group, which was carried out at the beginning of September, was carried out on the basis of a clear promise given to the company's management in Spain by the Soviet authorities, according to which visas would be granted to Israeli tourists arriving as part of international groups. Kendel said the requests for the Israelis' visas were separated from the other requests for group members and transferred for the approval of higher authorities in the Soviet Union, who rejected the requests.

The Melia Company's management in Madrid announced yesterday that it would continue with its attempts to obtain visas for the Soviet Union for Israelis in international groups. At this stage the Melia branch in Tel Aviv has begun to give back the $250 registration fees to the 50 people registered for the trip.

IDF Orders Gen Lahd, ASL To Stop Harassing UNIFIL

TA141638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] A katyusha rocket was fired this morning at a position of the Army of southern Lebanon [ASL] in the security zone near the village of Bint Jubayl. The rocket was fired from within the security zone.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that various serious firing incidents occurred in the area in the last few days between UN and ASL troops. General Lahd had ordered his men to harass UNIFIL convoys until the United Nations recognizes the ASL. Following sharp complaints lodged by the United Nations, the IDF ordered Gen Lahd to stop harassing UNIFIL at once.

Moda'i Reviews Economic Plan at Knesset Session

TA150746 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Oct 85 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Arye Rubinstein]

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said yesterday that net wages must be kept at their present level next fiscal year.

He was speaking at the opening of the winter term of the Knesset, which returned from its 2 and 1/2-month summer recess.

Moda'i said real wages had eroded deeply since the inauguration of the government's economic plan in July, which was strictly in accordance with the plan. They were now down to the level of real wages in 1980. Real gross wages might decline further in 1986, he said, but the planned income-tax reductions would either keep net wages at their present level or allow them to rise somewhat.

Moda'i said wages could increase as a result of improved productivity, but a wage hike without better productivity would hurt economic growth, which he called "the real, fundamental solution for Israel's economy."

The economy has a tremendous potential for productivity, which called for a greater effort on the part of the citizens, Moda'i said. Output per worker in Israel was one-third less than that in Japan and in European countries, Moda'i said.

The minister said the economic plan is working out very well, although it would be premature for the government to pat itself on the back.

A decline in domestic consumption, coupled with a marginal increase in productivity, has enabled Israel to increase its exports.

On the state budget, Moda'i said there was no deficit in the government's expenditure from April 1 to September 30. In fact, the first half of the fiscal year had ended with a $160 million surplus.

DAVAR Commentary on Soviet Role in Peace Process

TA111325 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 85 p 16

[Commentary by Hagay Eshed: "Should We Initiate Soviet Involvement in Negotiations?"]

[Excerpts] Here is a simple question for Prime Minister Shim'on Peres prior to his departure for Europe and the United States, and especially on the eve of his meeting with President Reagan: To whom should we make the concession which we will eventually be forced to make, to Yasir 'Arafat or to Mikhail Gorbachev? And another question: To whom will it be to our advantage to pay the mediator's fee, and who should we trust as guarantor in the deal to be achieved through this mediation — West European countries of the Soviet Union?

The answer to these questions is also simple: We should make the concessions to the one who offers the most in exchange for what he receives, on condition, obviously, that he does not demand a higher fee than what he is willing to give in exchange. And what conclusion are we to draw? With all the differences between them, there is a common denominator shared between Bruno Kreisky and Bettino Crazi, and even between them and Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand. They all demand no less than the Soviet Union demands, but can give, and are only willing to give, much less in return, if anything at all. The Soviet Union does not demand of us more than is included in the "Venice Declaration" drafted by our European friends, and contrary to them it can give us a lot, if it so wishes. The main question is when it will want to.

There is all the difference in the world between the Americans and the Europeans when it comes to moralizing and teaching us how to defend ourselves from the Arab threat and the unceasing Arab military hostility, of which 'Arafat and the PLO are an inseparable part. The Americans do a great deal to help Israel defend itself, whereas the Europeans are not doing anything. What value or advantage can there be in European mediation in the Arab-Israeli conflict, or what kind of guarantors can the Europeans be to any kind of Israeli-Arab arrangement? There is no certainty that they are interested in and can shoulder any burden for us and for peace and security in our region. The Europeans are parasites who take advantage of the Israel-Arab conflict to make lucrative weapon deals, without taking the trouble to limit them or balance them by helping Israel shoulder its tremendous economic and security burden, which they only increase by their greed.

The "European accompaniment" of which Shim'on Peres spoke might in fact turn out to be a 'parasitical and extortionist accompaniment," from which we will get nothing in return. After the European reaction to the attack in Tunisia we must be extremely cautious of this.

Turning to 'Arafat, what can he give us without the Soviet Union being partner to this giving? Nothing. If he makes any concessions without the agreement of the Soviet Union and its allies in the Middle East, he will immediately be denounced as Al-Ja'bari's [former Hebron mayor who had good relations with Israel] heir, or as the head of the village leagues in the Janin district, as a quisling, a traitor. He will be compared to the "tail of imperialism and Zionism," — Husayn. They would both come to the same end as Al-Sadat, even if those who pull the trigger will be Muslim fundamentalists rather than communists. As long as there is a "holy alliance" between these two groups, there will be no stable peace in the Middle East and it is not worthwhile to make great concessions in exchange for a situation which would not ensure peace and security.

The chances for stable peace in the Middle East depend on whether the Soviet Union has an interest in such peace, and a condition for this is its participation in achieving it, or at least in its giving such peace its agreement and blessing and in its prestige and position not being damaged as a result of having to surrender to an American dictate. There can be no "American peace" in the Middle East. There is no avoiding talks with the Soviets on peace in this region, which they have always regarded as a Soviet security zone, or more neatly put: "an area near the Soviet Union's southern borders." The Soviets attribute great importance to the "territories," both in East Europe and the Middle East. They do not share the derision with which many of us regard the strategic importance of "territories."

The Soviets can give Israel peace and security, just as they were a main cause in helping Israel achieve independence by supporting the partition decision and by supplying weapons without which Israel would have been wiped out immediately upon its inception. The Soviet position then was characterized by the Soviet rejection of the Arabs' demand to choose between them and Israel. The Soviet Union maintained at that time, just as the United States does now, that it is possible and necessary to support both Israel and the Arabs. This is what allowed the establishment of the country, and this is also what is necessary for the establishment of a stable peace between Israel and the Arab states.

The Soviets can also give Israel mass Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. In exchange for these two things the Soviet Union will achieve a position it still does not enjoy, a position of a full and equal partner to the United States in the Middle East. It would also achieve moral prestige before the Western public, both American and European; and this is the main arena in which the new Soviet leadership and the Reagan administration clash. Israel and its friends carry a lot of weight in the two arenas essential to the Soviet Union: the Middle Eastern geopolitical arena and the political and propaganda arena of Western public opinion.

What does the Soviet Union have to offer and gain in any arrangement in the Israeli-Arab conflict? Without it no arrangement could be stable. We should involve it in any peace process; as a matter of fact, sooner or later we will have no other alternative than to do so. The question is when. The answer lies mainly with the Soviet Union and its dialogue with the U.S. Administration.

The sign for it will be when the Soviets decide to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. Israel should strive to be a full partner to this American-Soviet dialogue, allowing Yasir 'Arafat and his European allies to wait on the sidelines for the developments in this dialogue, which is the decisive dialogue.

The main key, albeit not the only one, to solving the Palestinian problem is in the hands of Gorbachev rather than those of 'Arafat. Whether he uses it depends on the Soviet-American dialogue, but also on a dialogue with Israel, which also holds one of the keys to the problem. Until the Soviets decide to talk with Israel, the latter should and can do two things: Increase its struggle against the murderous PLO terrorism, this despite European extortionist threats; and talk with the Jordanians about additional interim agreements between the two countries, with U.S. support. We should not talk about comprehensive peace now, because this depends also on the Soviets. Perhaps the day is approaching, although there is no certainty, when they will want to be partner to bringing about such a peace.

Papers Welcome Capture of PLO Hijackers

TA130651 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *DAVAR* says that legal arguments are now being leveled against the United States by those quarters which have attacked Israel in its fight against terrorism. Technically, Washington did violate international law. However, it abided by its spirit to make sure that justice was done. This may contribute to checking the renewed wave of terrorist frenzy which strikes indiscriminately and brutally at innocent people. It is hard to tell how consistent the United States will remain in its approach, but, for the first time, it went beyond words and demonstrated in practical terms its position on terrorism.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the U.S. operation proved that the Mediterranean Sea is not a safe place for hijackers and terrorists. It illustrated the ability of a great superpower to disrupt blackmail attempts, without shedding any blood and even without determining beforehand whether the suspects were guilty or not. This was a neat and smart operation, the like of which has not often been performed by the great superpowers in the 20th century. Nevertheless, Washington officials have already suffered and will suffer even more acrimonious abuse. There is no doubt that international terrorism will not easily accept the blow dealt by the Americans and will do everything in its power to disrupt the trial proceedings in Italy to secure the release of the hijackers. The West will be tested by its ability to stand fast in the face of such attempts and to nip them in the bud.

THE JERUSALEM POST notes that if a peace process is to get underway, it will require, first and foremost, that the PLO be exorcised from any such effort. Israel has always understood that, but for too long has stood alone in that regard. The *Achille Lauro* affair may now give that realization broader currency. Certainly that realization should be apparent in Washington. Mr Peres and Mr Reagan, therefore, have an opportunity to chart a new course for a genuine process of negotiations to resolve the triangular conflict among Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

HA'ARETZ says one gets the impression that the Italian Government is trying to please both the United States, by trying the murderous hijackers, and the PLO by letting Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] go free. In the past, Arab terrorists sentenced to prison by Italian courts were released before completing their sentence and were allowed to rejoin their organizations in a safe place. However, even if the same thing happens again it should be noted that the U.S. leadership has begun sobering up and has begun fighting terrorism not just with words but also with deeds.

HATZOFE writes that the operation initiated by the United States against the four hijackers of the Italian ship and the interception of the Egyptian plane are examples of the right way to deal with Arab terrorism. Hopefully, other Western leaders will now understand Israel's reasons for bombing the PLO headquarters in Tunis in particular and its fight against terrorism in general. Yasir 'Arafat has recently demonstrated that, despite the moderate image he is trying to project, he is the man who stands behind the murderous attacks and has not abandoned the path of terrorism. The apologetic approach of several Western countries toward him only encourages him in this path. Will the U.S. operation against the four hijackers herald a new era in the fight of the free world against terrorism? Time will tell.

ALGERIA

U.S. Defense Secretary Confirms U.S. 'Terrorism'

LD111350 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Last night the peaceful end of the hijacking of the Italian liner witnessed a fresh development in the interception by a squadron of American military aircraft from the 6th Fleet of the Egyptian airplane carrying the commandos who 3 days ago executed the operation diverting the course of the Italian ship.

The statement by the American defense secretary confirms that the Washington Administration itself is the one who practices terrorism by means of giving legal character to operations of piracy. This attitude, which epitomizes the gendarme role carried out by the American Administration, has always been an encouragement to the administrations of the Zionist entity and the racist regime of Pretoria in persisting in their aggressive actions.

LIBYA

Libya Condemns U.S. Interception of Egyptian Plane

NC130747 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 13 Oct 85

["Text" of statement issued by the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in Tripoli on the interception of a civilian Egyptian airliner by U.S. fighter aircraft — date not given]

[Text] U.S. fighter aircraft have intercepted a civilian Egyptian airliner and forced it to land at Sigonella Base in southern Italy. This condemned action clearly demonstrates the aggressive dimensions of U.S. policy. The People's Committee condemns this act of piracy by the U.S. military aircraft and wishes to point out the following points:

1. This act of piracy carried out by the U.S. Administration has set a serious precedent. It clearly affirms the dimensions of the aggressive policy practiced by the Reagan Administration against the people and countries of the Mediterranean. This act also demonstrates the danger posed by the existence of U.S. imperialist bases in southern Italy and in the Mediterranean, as well as the effects they have on the region's peace and stability.

2. This act affirms the nature of the relationship between the Egyptian regime and the U.S. Administration. This relationship is one of submission and subservience. It gives Reagan the right to make any decision, even if such a decision is against the Egyptian regime.

3. This action has clearly shown the strange role which the United States is playing in the Arab homeland. The United States is the protector of the Zionist entity and the guarantor of its security. At the same time, the United States is also the protector of those Arab rulers who continue to carry favor with it and to undertake incessant pilgrimages there. The rulers who accept this submissive relationship cannot go beyond the limit specified for them. They cannot reject a decision made by Reagan which supports an aggression committed by the Zionist enemy or which sends aircraft to practice piracy in the skies thousands of miles away from the United States.

4. Collusion is obvious between the U.S. Administration and the reactionary regimes. The statements released by these regimes' information media are attempts to throw dust in the eyes of the Arab masses. However, these masses are not sleeping. They have expressed their position by rejecting every relationship with the United States and the Zionist enemy. These masses have affirmed this stance by deeds — in Sinai, at the Cairo University, and in other parts of the homeland.

5. This act of air piracy is part of a plan by which the United States seeks to create conditions suitable for launching a more comprehensive offensive agaisnt areas that reject U.S. dominiation of the Arab homeland and the Mediterranean zone.

6. Faced with acts of aggression and plots against its existence, the Arab nation is able to correct the defeatist marches created by the policy of capitulation, submission, and subservience through its own live forces. The Arab nation is capable of triumphing over its weaknesses. The events in Sinai, in the occupied land, and in southern Lebanon are phases of expected eruptions displaying the wrath of a nation that can give an answer. This is particularly true because this nation is part of the inconquerable will of history.

U.S. Interceptors, Israeli Raiders From Same Carrier

LD111425 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Rome: American military planes took off from the American aircraft carrier *Saratoga* in the Mediterranean and intercepted an Egyptian airliner carrying four Palestinian Fedayeen and forced it to land at the base of Sigonella, a NATO base on Sicily.

The American White House spokesman, Larry Speakes, has stated that the operation was carried out after President Reagan ordered the American fighters on board the aircraft carrier *Saratoga* in the Mediterranean to intercept the plane, having learned that it was carrying the four Palestinians.

The silence maintained by the Egyptian regime about this operation proves its support for the operation and its participation in planning for its implementation: It was the Egyptian regime that supplied the American Government with the details about the plane's departure time, the names of those aboard, and their destination.

The operation comes only a few days after the raid by Zionist aircraft, which took off from the American aircraft carrier, on the positions of the Palestinian fedayeen, martyring a number of them and injuring others.

The American aircraft carrier from which the Zionist military planes took off to raid the Palestinian fedayeen positions is the same aircraft carrier from which the American planes took off to intercept the Egyptian airliner. This affirms the strategic alliance between the Zionist enemy and the United States and that the United States is the enemy of the Arabs. The events also affirms that courting the favor of the American Black House will not benefit the Arab cause and means nothing but further squandering thiscourting.

Egypt 'Colluded' in U.S. 'Air Piracy Operation'

LD120919 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] New York, 12 Oct (JANA) -- It has been confirmed beyond any doubt that the Egyptian regime, and particularly Mubarak himself,colluded in the air piracy operation carried out by the American Government the day before yesterday against the plane carrying the 4 Fidayeen.

Responsible U.S. officials, politicians, and analysts in Washington have affirmed the coordination that took place between Mubarak and Reagan with regard to the hijacking of the Egyptian plane in the international skies.

The White House official spokesman, Larry Speakes, affirmed earlier this morning that the U.S. Government learned of the departure of the 4 Palestinians on board the Egyptian plane from Egyptian Government sources and from America's spies inside Egypt.

Zionist Tourists 'Beseiged' by Egyptian Masses

LD111450 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The vanquished Egyptian capital, 11 Oct (JANA) — Angry Egyptian popular masses have beseiged a group of Zionist tourists at Egyptian town of Port Said.

Reports from the vanquished Egyptian capital stated that the police of the Egyptian regime intervened using violence against the Egyptian citizens to protect the Zionists from the Egyptian populace's anger. During their seige of the tourists the citizens chanted anti-Zionist and anti-Egyptian regime slogans and demanded the severence of relations with the Zionist capitals and the liberation of Palestine.

According to the reports, the Zionists cut short their visit and returned to opccupied Palestine for fear of the wrath of the Egyptian streets, despite the assurance given to them by the regime's police that they would be protected.

This incident is one of the manifestations of the Egyptian popular wrath against the Zionist gangs and the agent Mubarak regime and the popular rejection of the humiliating accords.

Last Saturday an Egyptian soldier opened fire at a number of Zionist tourists in Sinai, killing 7 of them and injuring others.

Al-Qadhdhafi Cable to Gorbachev at End of Visit

LD150823 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Having concluded his visit to the USSR, the brother leader of the Great 1 September Revolution sent a cable of thanks and gratitude to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CentralCommittee, which said:

Upon leaving your friendly country we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to you, your government, and your party for your warm welcome and hospitality. We have been positively affected by this meeting, which is regarded as the beginning of a new phase in the history of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. This meeting has contributed to the unification of and coordination of our views regarding the most important international and bilateral issues and the establishment of long-term cooperation between us.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Activities During USSR Visit Reported

For reportage on the 10-12 October visit of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Moscow, including his meeting and talks with Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary, and other officials, see the Middle East and North Africa section of the 11 October Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*, and subsequent issues.

MOROCCO

King Appoints New Foreign Affairs Secretary

LD130430 Rabat MAP in English 1212 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Rabat, Oct 12 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco received here Friday M. Ahmed Cherkaoui whom he appointed to the post of secretary of state for foreign affairs.

King Hassan Addresses Parliament 11 Oct

LD121005 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1701 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Speech by King Hassan II to the House of Representatives on the occasion of the opening of the second legislative year of the current parliament in Rabat — live]

[Text] Peace by upon you. Thanks be to God. Prayers and peace be upon our master the prophet of God, his family, and companions. Honorable representatives. Gentlemen. Usually,and according to the provisions of the constitution, we meet with you once a year but Almighty God, with his blessings, wants us to meet twice this year. We met, in fact, on the blessed soil of Western Sahara in the town of Al-Ayoun. [applause] Since that day I remember what I told you, honorable representatives, and what I told my people: I said that during that visit we discovered a new type of Moroccan. We discovered a Moroccan with the strongest faith -- still at the prime of youth, but his faith was the faith of old age -- a type of Moroccan who, irrespective of his cultural or social level, has become convinced that he and the Moroccan Sahara are one, dying with its demise and living with its life. [applause]

Well, if this type of Moroccan citizen has emerged from this good land as a new type of man then we should on our part renew ourselves in the domain of action, and renew our style in our approach to problems, posing them adequately and analyzing them in the right way.

As a matter of fact, we must develop ourselves and our methods and our analysis. We must also, if possible, strain our eyes to look over the borders of our country at what is taking place in the world, which is not reassuring. For months you have been seeing that balances have been upset, that what used to be permissible has become forbidden and what used to be taboo has become permissible.

We have seen that the pillars of international virtue have disappeared and regrettably have not been replaced by alternatives. We are a country belonging to the Third World -- and I do not say a developing country. Morocco, thanks be to God, with its past heritage and with its current determination is note a developing country; rather it is a country belonging to the Third World, but at the top of the Third World. We must then look with a new eye and with new criteria at our internal problems and at the choices and responsibilities we must bear externally.

We begin with our internal problems. I am proud and you are all proud of the fact that since I inherited the throne of our blessed ancestors in 1961 and until last year Morocco mantained, among other achievements, the stability of its currency. The dinar since 1961 has been parallel in value to the franc and has always been on sale in external markets in a way that makes Moroccans proud of dealing in the dinar. This is one of the manifestations of our sovereignty, and I now want -- and I want to give my orders to the government, and I also instruct you to supervise the work of the government in this field: I want to put a final limit to the decline of the dinar. Our currency should remain [words indistinct]. This is first.

Second, I do not want Morocco to enter that club that is now facing and fighting the IMF and the World Bank. No, Morocco has its problems and it has its own kind of dialogue, and although it has not always been in agreement with the IMF, it has found it to be flexible and understanding. We must then go along with events, holding fast to our sovereignty and all that entails. After we have rescheduled our debts and after we have received funds we must transform them into dirhams by making the economic start, which will enable the workers to return to their work [words indistinct] the state pay its debts to the contractors and employers so that this country sets out, as from the end of this year, in an atmosphere of action, activity, and construction. [applause]

Thirdly, a few weeks ago we launched a loan for the needs of the Sahara. We launched it exclusively for individuals, setting aside banks and important companies like investment companies, insurance companies, and so forth. I want this loan to also be open to banks, insurance companies, and commercial companies starting next month. God willing, this will enable us to ensure that money accumulating in banks is released to add momentum to the wagon so that we may be able to undertake construction and refurbishment activity. For it is not necessary that all the equipment-related deals be conducted in dollars, French francs, or Deutschmarks. There is basic equipment, especially in the domain of agriculture -- basic equipment that can be covered by the dinar. The state will then be able to have billions of dinars at its disposal to start action, construciton, road building, and irrigation canals. Therefore, I believe that this loan must also be open to banks, companies, and so forth.

Finally, as you know, we have decided that this loan must not be open only to Moroccans and to Moroccan minorities abroad: It must also be open in Europe, in European countries and banks with international reputations. This is an ensemble of acts and measures: First, not severing links with the international institutions that offer us credits, while at the same time preserving our sovereignty. We must also explain to them our needs and the limits to our dealings with them. Second: to pay off the maximum possible to all the companies, contractors, and persons that have been serving this state so that factories and plants may be able to take back all their workers and so that the economic wheel of Morocco may turn continuously, neither slowly not at a dangerous speed. Third, we must not, under any circumstances, allow our currency to slip any further. Fourth, to open the loan to other than individuals.

If we take this action we will be able during the year to find out the practical domains where all this money can be put. This will not be for fighting unemployment -- never -- nor will it be for social action. No, this will be for construciton and reequipment. We must stick to two principles: austerity and the principle of not to impoverish the people. Austerity is one thing and impoverishing people is quite another. One can live in an atmosphere of austerity and at the same time live in comfort, abundance, and peace.

These are some basic ideas that I want you to concentrate on in this session, as you will be studying the financial law for the coming year. But your studies, whether governmental or parliamentary, cannot be useful or effective unless we give dialogue its true meaning and its true context. Dialogue requires that the two sides be in agreement on the topic of the dialogue. This is an essential matter. If there is no agreement on the topic of the dialogue then there must be disagreement. This is first. Second, the two sides should enter the dialogue knowing that they have ability and expertise, duties and obligations. Finally, we expect the government and the parties that participate with it in the action not always to take us on board the ship of principled optimism. I also expect the opposition not to involve us in the storms of principled pessimism. We must be a middle-of-the-road nation as I have always told you, and we cannot deal with our problems and issues unless when we have a dialogue we agree on its subject and know where we are going. Finally, this dialogue should not lead us to a closed door. If at this session we really devote our efforts to invigorating the economic field, and employing the maximum number of persons in serious and constructive employment, as I said to you, then we will be able to look at what is behind us, at our present, and at what lies ahead of us in the international arena -- whether regional, Arab, Islamic, or international.

In this international sphere, as you known, God Almighty has made it possible for the holding on our soil many conferences, the last of which was the extraordinary summit. Some who were absent thought that the extaordinary summit would see the Arabs come out split and divided, but thank God it resulted [words indistinct]. For the first time in the history of the conferences two committees arose from the extraordinary Casablanca summit to reconcile the warring brothers.

Thus, you will be able to plan for Moroccan diplomatic action, its program, path, and methods with peace of mind.

Moroccan policy is in our hands. We can all say at some time: God protect me from satan, we must stop here. But Moroccan international policy must not be characterized by whims, quarrels or alliances. We must pose it calmly, scientifically, and devoid of any affiliation, revenge, or isolation.

Thus, Morocco is going to face up this year and next year also to the problem of our Sahara. The problem of our Sahara is a two-faceted problem. As far as we are concerned, there is no problem: The Sahra is Moroccan and it will remain so. [applause] Secondly, while this situation helps us and reassures us, it does not constitute an obligation to our adversaries from the legal or international points of view. For this reason we must most seriously endeavor to persuade the international community of the correctness and legitimate character of our demands.

It was my intention to go to the United Nations, but due to certain considerations and factors I decided to send my speech to the United States. It will be delivered on our behalf by our prime minister. If the crown prince had been able to travel we would have sent him in person, but given his illness our prime minister will deputize for us. He will be accompanied by an important delegation, and he will deliver our speech from beginning to end — I mean from where he says: Mr chairman, until he says: peace be upon you, it will be the speech of the king of Morocco, so that we may ourselves be committed to what we have said and stated and make everyone face their current and future responsibilities.

I am convinced, honorable representatives, that what I have said to you has reached your hearts and minds. Yes, today I saw figures and economic and financial directives. Even though I personally do not have the necessary training in this field, I believe that the figures and the financial directives are first and foremost shaped by political decisions. When I say political I mean political policy. When I say policy I mean the definition we find in the dictionary: Politics means dealing with matters, managing them for the prese time and for the future.

My economic and monetary directives and orders are nothing but political orders and directives stemming from policies. Our policies [words indistinct] as far as our politics are concerned I would like to see Morocco as a workshop from north to south and east to west. [applause]

Our conscience lies in peace. We have met our obligations to those who have been addressing themselves to us: to the IMF and to the World Bank. We have met our obligation -- sometimes willingly, sometimes reluctantly. We have reached a point that cannot be exceeded, but we are still open-minded and still have good intentions and good will. But this comes within the framework of our sovereignty and respect for our [word indistinct]. This is a fundamental matter which I want the government to know, and you members of parliament must monitor this whether you are in government or in opposition.

Finally, neither immoderation nor negligence, neither unnecessary optimism nor unnecessary pessimism: Life is a succession of problems and there are two ways of resolving problems -- Either one tries to find a solution to every problem and in this he wastes time; or one stands back somehow to see problems in perspective and then tries to divide them into parts, not into [word indistinct] problems, [words indistinct] and finds a solution to this group, another solution to that group, and so on. One would thus be able in 3 or 4 months to find solutions to categorized problems. This would not be possible if one takes all problems one by one.

I pray to Almighty God that I have found open hearts and listening ears. I cannot imagine otherwise, because I belong to a generation that has lived alongside people older than me and I know others younger than me, but all of us -- the old, the middle-aged, and the young -- all of us were brought up with one resistance, one struggle, and all of us wish for that which Almighty God would wish, given the beauty and blessings that have been conferred. God would wish this country to remain secure and peaceful, a virtuous Islamic country following the path of the ancestors, following the teachings of the Koran, and having the virtues of the prophet called for by the tradition set by our prophet Muhammad.

I pray to God to realize our hopes, not to disappoint us and to make us all — all of us, not only [words indstinct], not only the first servant of this country — to make us always live up to the expectations of millions of Moroccans, those living today and those who will belong to future generations. Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

SUDAN

Government Denounces Interception of Egyptian Plane

JN141815 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Oct (SUNA) — Dr Amin Makki Madani, official spokesman for the Council of Ministers, has announced that Sudan and its government condemn acts of violence and domination as a way to resolve international issues regardless of the side that carries them out, because such acts will certainly lead to a stalemate in peace efforts. In a statement today the spokesman added that, proceeding from this principle, the Sudanese Government denounces the interception of the Egyptian plane on Thursday — an action that conflicts with international norms and charters — especially since the United States is a permanent member of the Security Council. He said that the United States participated in efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Middle East issues, pointing out that these facts are incompatible with the interception of the plane, thus threatening the region's security, hampering efforts to achieve a just peaceful solution, and endangering world peace and security.

PLO's 'Arafat Visits Khartoum, Holds Talks

Arrives 12 Oct

JN131033 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Oct (SUNA) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived here yesterday on a short visit to Sudan. He is expected to hold contacts today with concerned officials and leaders of political parties. He will also hold a press conference.

Received by Siwar al-Dhahab

JN131117 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum Oct 13 (SUNA) — The Sudanese side headed by Chairman of the Transitional Military Council General Siwar al-Dhahab and the Palestinian side presided over by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held here today a round of talks.

Their talks reviewed the Arab question and the current issues, particularly the escalation of the situation following the Israeli air raid on the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Tunis.

The two sides condemned the hostile raid and called for the activation of work at the Arab, African and international scenes.

The two sides decided on the formation of a joint Sudanese-Palestinian committee in this respect.

The committee comprised Defence Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah and Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyubm besides Salah Khalaf, no. two in PLO and PLO member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin.

'Arafat arrived here yesterday on a short visit to Sudan.

Gives Press Conference

EA131945 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1717 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Oct (SUNA) — Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, has expressed his deep indignation at the official and popular Arab reaction to the bombing of the organization's headquarters in Tunis and the hijacking of an Egyptian aircraft carrying seven Palestinians, which he described as unexpected.

Mr 'Arafat said in a conference he held here today that American-Israeli arrogance had reached an intolerable level and the Arab nation, whose dignity had been violated, should call up its energy and respond to the Zionist challenge, which aims at its existence.

'Arafat added that Reagan's blessing of the strike against the organization's headquarters in Tunis, which aimed at killing him personally, confirmed that the United States does not seek peace in the Arab region, but seeks a Palestinian surrender, and this it will never get.

His excellency went on to say that America's and Israel's aggression against the sovereignty of both Egypt and Tunisia provided confirmed evidence of America's naked enmity against the Arabs.

Mr 'Arafat denied that the Tunisian authorities refused permission for the aircraft carrying Abu al-Abbas and his comrades to land in Tunis, pointing out that it was hijacked in Greek airspace.

His excellency said that what happened in Sudan, Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, the attack on Tunis, and so on are manifestations of a whirlwind that has come to threaten the Arab nation. 'Arafat also stressed that the Palestinian people have never been as united as they are today regarding who their sole legitimate representative is and said that the PLO is the only Palestinian force. He described the organizations opposed to it as political groupings, some of which are the creations of Arab intelligence services.

The Palestinian leader reaffirmed that the PLO does not accept Reagan's plan, saying the U.S. Administration is trying to sabotage the peace process and the Palestinian people wholesale.

Mr 'Arafat described his talks with the Transitional Military Council as fruitful and successful. He expressed the hope that these talks will bear fruit in the form of an effective Arab move. He stated that the organization called for the convening of an Arab summit, or at least a meeting of foreign ministers, but the response continues to be weak.

Parties, Unions Object to Consititution's Provisions

JN111812 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 11, SUNA — Groups of political parties and trade unions yesterday lodged a petititon with the Transitional Military Council, "TMC", and the Council of Ministers raising objections to the transitional perid constitution which had been signed here yesterday by the councils.

The petition claimed that some of the articles of the newly signed Constitution pose a flagrant violation to principal rights of the people and others had been scene of controversy.

The petition cited Artile 32, saying that this provided that the individual will be denied his principal rights merely because he faces accusation before being convicted.

The petition as well said another article denied the right to impeachment before the judiciary and also contradicted the fundamental principles that people must not be denied under whatsoever justification.

The petition on the other hand said the draft of the transitional period constitution has not been dstributed to all the political forces or the public opinion in its final version. At the same time the petition criticized Article 16, Provision (2) on the system of governing in the south on a one-region basis. It said the constitution ignored the opinion of some political forces in the south who want the south to be divided into three regions.

Siwar al-Dhahab Interviewed on Mutiny, South

GF121645 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 12 Oct 85 p 12

[Interview with General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of Sudan's Transitional Military Council, by Muhammad Ahmad 'Awad and Nur al-Din Madani in Khartoum — date not given; interview given to both *AL-MADINAH* and to the Khartoum daily *AL-SAHAFAH*]

[Excerpts] Question: Some people are still unaware of the details of the recent racist moves. What are the details of that racist move and what are the political quarters that stand behind it and support it? Why that timing in particular?

Siwar al-Dhahab: There are no details about the recent racist moves that have not been published. The prime minister and the defense minister have broadcast the news of the plot and, in their statement, defined its objectives. The aim of the plot was to seize power after killing the members of the Transitional Military Council, the Council of Ministers, and some leaders of the parties, and then spreading chaos in the national capital. Elements from the Armed Forces, retired soldiers, and civilians took part. It is a racist plot directed against Arabism and Islam in our country. Investigations indicate that the plot was instigated by John Garang, leader of the rebel forces in southern Sudan, and Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush, and that they were supported by some citizens of the Al-Nubah Mountains and southern Sudan. The trials that will be held soon will reveal who stands behind the plot and who participated in it. [passage omitted]

Question: There is talk about restoring the balance within the Armed Forces. What is your view regarding the success of such a trend that will safeguard the Armed Forces' nationalism and neutrality and ensure that it is free of racist and political currents?

Siwar al-Dhahab: The Armed Forces are a neutral national institution that is free of racist and political currents. We are very anxious that this should remain so.

Question: Some people accuse the Armed Forces of having joined the political struggle. They directly point to the adoption of a plan presented by a youth organization thepolitical affiliation of which is well-known. What is your view of such charges?

Siwar al-Dhahab: This is a false and groundless charge. It is not correct to say that the Armed Forces adopted the plan. It is better for all of us to avoid casting doubts and spreading inuendos about our Armed Forces, for as I have said, the Armed Forces are a national and neutral institution that is free of racist and political currents.

Question: Despite all the declarations made on the security situation in southern Sudan, the situation there is still very ambiguous. Is it possible to clarify the security situation in southern Sudan and the position of the Armed Forces, especially following the latest reinforcement of Garang's forces?

Siwar al-Dhahab: The situation in southern Sudan is not ambiguous. The Armed Forces have succeeded in lifting the siege around Bor and are now seeking to repulse the rebels in other areas where Garang's supporters have flooded. It is better for journalists to report from the field and go to southern Sudan to find out the facts.

Question: There is a trend among party leaders to extend the transitional period so as to deal with the changes that occur and to resolve outstanding problems, particularly the problem of southern Sudan. What is your view of the Transitional Military Council's [TMC] position during the extension period?

Siwar al-Dhahab: In his recent meeting with journalists, Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah said that elections will be held at their scheduled time. This refutes all talk about extending the transition period. The decision to extend the transition period to which you refer must be taken, if necessary, by all the forces that are signatory to the charter. It means the continuation of the present situation, in both its military and civilian aspects, until the end of the transition period.

Question: The defense minister's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt has provoked a great deal of controversy and conflicting analyses. How do you assess the visit in the light of the domestic situation, external pressure, and the rivalry? What about your projected visit to Egypt?

Siwar al-Dhahab: The minister of defense visited Egypt at the generous invitation of the Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. He met with President Husni Mubarak and conveyed my verbal message to him. He also conveyed a message from Al-Jazuli Daf'allah to the Egyptian prime minister. The relationship between the two countries is an excellent relationship. There is no cause for controversy or analyses. I intend to visit fraternal Egypt in the second half of October.

Question: Sudan's policy of improving relations with brothers and neighbors notwithstanding, the conflict with Ethiopia in particular still continues.

Siwar al-Dhahab: Sudan is anxious that its relations with its brothers and neighbors should be based on justice and mutual interests. We have held positive talks with Ethiopia and we have reached agreements. We have sent our ambassador to Addis Ababa. We hope that all these measures will be conducive to the improvement of relations between the two countries and governments.

The resumption of our relations with Libya was not at the expense of our relations with Egypt. Libya did not lay any conditions for the resumption of relations with it that would hamper our freedom of action.

TMC Vice Chairman Views Garang, Cease-Fire

JN111553 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Oct (SUNA) — General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah Fadl, vice chairman of the Transitional Military Council [TMC], has expressed the hope that Sudan will develop its relations with Ethiopia. He said: Since the beginning of the revolution, Sudan has expressed a desire to normalize and improve relations with neighboring countries and to gain the confidence of all countries on the basis of a balanced foreign policy.

In an interview with SUNA answering a question about rearranging Sudanese relations with some countries that were reportedly involved in the recent coup, Gen Fadl said that this will take place if it is proven that any country was involved in these events. He added that they are awaiting the results of investigations.

Gen Fadl said that he considered what took place a mutiny inside the Armed Forces until current investigations prove something else or until the Armed Forces discover other dimensions.

He asserted that the Armed Forces will develop their capabilities after having been ignored for a long time. He said that it is time these forces were supported, strengthened, and developed.

Answering a question about John Garang's intransigence, the vice chairman said that nothing prevents the continuation of the course of dialogue presented in the political arena while the Armed Forces continue their firm policy. He added that even though we believe in democracy and open dialogue, we are also determined to preserve Sudan's security, peace, and territorial integrity.

He said that the method used by John Garang in confronting the homeland is not acceptable. He added that if John Garang is really concerned about the country's interests, he should be the first to come to Khartoum to participate in solving Sudan's problems and exchanging opinions to achieve the country's higher interests. Within this framework, Garang can present his viewpoints to the TMC and the Cabinet and he may find people who agree with him.

The vice chairman added: However, Garang has now become [word indistinct] and nobody stands by his side. He said that the conference on the south will convene, and it would be better for Garang to join this conference in order to participate with others in presenting solutions for Sudan's problems. He asserted that the conference will convene whether Garang agrees to participate or not.

The vice chairman asserted that there are countries that support and back John Garang -- otherwise his military movement would not have lasted this long. He added that foreign support aims at fragmenting the homeland's unity, but the Sudanese people are capable of safeguarding their gains and unity, as well as solving their problems peacefully. He added that if necessary the Sudanese people will use all their power to safeguard their unity.

Gen Fadl noted the TMC's decision on a unilateral cease-fire, explaining that the announcement is still in force despite the harassments caused by John Garang's forces and their exploitation of the cease-fire to support his position.

Gen Fadl said that the cease-fire and our adherence to it is evidence of our credibility and that John Garang's stand is evidence of his disregard and exploitiation of opportunities to show that he is bigger than his real size. He stated that the Armed Forces only resort to force in self-defense in confronting John Garang's forces. He added: However, John Garang exploits our Armed Forces' self-defense as an excuse for his claims that the Armed Forces have not ceased fire.

The vice chairman said that all forces inside the country have used all methods to convince John Garang to sit at the negotiating table and that the authorities, parties, and our good people have exerted all possible efforts in this respect. He added: However, John Garang has not responded to this. This shows that Garang has fallen prey to foreign sides that are stronger than he is. These foreign sides do not allow him to make decisions unilaterally or apart from them.

Regarding relations between Sudan and the USSR, the TMC vice chairman said that the decision to dispatch a high-ranking delegation to Moscow still holds and that the delegation will hold political and military talks with Soviet officials.

Regarding the transitional period's Constitution, Gen Fadl asserted that this Constitution was an outcome of appreciated efforts by many sides. He added: This means [words indistinct] the Sudanese people during the transitional period until the constituent assembly holds its first session on 26 April. The TMC vice chairman said that he believes that circumstances are suitable for holding elections on the fixed dates. he said that all parties and groupings expressed opinions urging elections in certain southern areas. He said that elections can be held in those areas whenever the circumstances are suitable. He expressed his hope that the southern problem would be solved peacefully and in a democratic way so that elections will be held in all parts of Sudan at one time.

Daf'allah Views Relations With Egypt, Libya, U.S.
NC111530 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1250 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Interview with Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah by 'Abd al-Mun'im Mabruk, Cairo radio correspondent in Khartoum; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mabruk] How can we reconcile the Egyptian-Sudanese joint defense agreement and the memorandum of understanding or military protocol between Libya and Sudan?

[Daf'allah] There is no similarity to or connection with the terms of the joint defense agreement. Egypt and Sudan have reached an understanding to exchange expertise and assistance in certain areas. It is not a defense agreement. The joint defense agreement is in no way similar to the military understanding between Sudan and Libya.

[Mabruk] Dr Daf'allah, we are interested in having this point confirmed, as Egypt is concerned about its relations with Sudan. Egypt also hopes that Sudan's relations with all countries are excellent.

[Daf'allah] We are concerned about the special ties between Egypt and Sudan and Sudan is also eager to maintain good relations with its neighbors, particularly the Arab states. Libya is an Arab country, and Sudan is concerned about having friendly and good neighborly relations with it.

[Mabruk] I have a question on your upcoming visit to the United States: America has expressed its misgivings about the military cooperation protocol between Sudan and Libya. Will you discuss this issue with U.S. Administration officials? Are you going to ask for more military aid?

[Daf‘allah] You say that the United States has voiced doubts about Libyan-Sudanese cooperation. There have been reports on this as well. However, the Sudanese Government has not received any complaints or protests about this. As I said, we will discuss Sudanese-U.S. relations and cooperation. There are other things to talk about, but there is no pressure regarding military issues.

[Mabruk] You will not ask for any military assistance or new weapons?

[Daf‘allah] Sudan has not asked for any military aid or new weapons from the United States.

Defense Minister on Cairo Visit, Current Issues

PM131710 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Oct 85 p 2

[Interview with Defense Minister Major General ‘Uthman ‘Abd-allah by ‘Abd al-Latif al-Manawi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: In your view, to what extent has your Cairo visit been fruitful for both sides?

Answer: My own assessment of my visit to Cairo is that it has been a very successful visit. That impression is supported by the fact that all the brothers at all levels have shown considerable interest in the visit. I have met with President Mubarak, Prime Minister ‘Ali Lutfi and brother Field Marshal ‘Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, at whose invitation I am in Cairo. I also met with all the Egyptian Armed Forces commands.

My firm impression is that the brothers in Egypt, at both civilian and military levels, fully understand Sudan's position and have steadily emphasized that they will place all their resources at Sudan's disposal in the event of a local or foreign threat to Sudan's policy, emphasizing that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are eternal.

Question: What is the significance of the demonstrations staged in Khartoum against Egypt over the past few weeks following the announcement of Numayri's departure? They were described as the biggest demonstrations ever staged in Khartoum.

Answer: These demonstrations were not against Egypt. They were staged by the National Grouping for the Salvation of Sudan, which is led by responsible people. It staged these peaceful demonstrations to call for Numayri's extradition to Sudan to be brought to account for his crimes against the Sudanese people. The plan was that the demonstrators would proceed to the Egyptian Embassy to hand the ambassador a note but, regrettably, at the last moment some agitators interfered and raised slogans different from the slogans agreed upon. So there was some interference. I discussed this matter with President Mubarak and told him that this incident should not be held against the Sudanese people. He in turn assured me that he no longer mentions the incident and that he quickly overlooked it because he later realized that the genuine Sudanese people would never get so emotional as to harm Egypt.

Question: Did you receive any confirmation from Egyptian officials that former President Numayri has indeed left Cairo?

Answer: Former President Numayri is in Cairo.

Question: Is that official, based on information you received from Egyptian officials, or is it based on information from your own sources?

Answer: I can only confirm that former President Numayri is in Egypt and that this is certain beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Question: Did you discuss Numayri's position with the Egyptian officials in Cairo?

Answer: I did not discuss it, because I had no authority to do so from the Transitional Military Council [TMC] or the prime minister.

Question: In your answer to the first question you said that you received assurances from Egyptian civilian and military officials that all Egyptian resources would be placed at Sudan's disposal in the event of a local or foreign threat to its policy. Can we conclude form this that the problem of the south falls within the framework of internal threats to Sudan's policies and therefore warrants requesting military aid from Egypt?

Answer: As it is now, the problem of the south does not call for intervention by military forces form any fraternal or friendly state to help the Sudanese people's forces, which can, given their present capabilities, tackle the situation, rise above it, and even achieve definite successes, but we still call for recourse to the word instead of the gun on the basis of our concept of dialogue. The current war in southern Sudan is mainly a guerrilla war, but it could develop into conventional war, in which case some regional element might enter it. If any regional or local side in the area got involved, then Egypt would be willing to intervene to help Sudan in accordance with a decision by the Sudanese political and military leadership. As regards the southern problem as it stands now, Egypt has not offered any assistance and we have not requested any Egyptian assitance because we are capable of containing the present situation.

Question: In other words, you consider the speculations linking your visit to the escalated fighting in the south to be unrealistic?

Answer: That has nothing to do with my visit, which was planned over 2 months ago and only took place now because of circumstance. It was Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah who extended the invitation to me and he chose the date to coincide with the Egyptian people's celebrations marking the anniversary of the

October victories. By coincidence, developments occurred just before the visit, which actually is not in any way related to the recent incidents in Sudan.

Question: Could we say that there are differences within the TMC and the army and between all those and the political parties over the question of how the problem of the south should be solved?

Answer: There are no differences within the TMCor the cabinet. There is complete agreement on all political issues. Both are also in full agreement with the National Grouping and all the other political groups not represented in it. I want to emphasize that there is not a single voice in the Military Council advocating a military solution. We are fully convinced that dialogue is the first option and that a military solution would be the alternative if the first option failed.

Question: John Garang has recently escalated the fighting. Some analysts see that as a battle for peace, that is, an attempt to achieve military successes to help him at the negotiating table. What is your opinion?

Answer: Garang's strategic objective behind the past escalation of the fighting may have been to score successes to give him stronger bargaining power, particularly since he has already made conditions which he knew in advance would be unacceptable. He exploited the cease-fire declared unilaterally by the Sudanese people's forces and he managed to sneak some of his forces into areas which he could not reach before under normal circumstances. and for a while he had the upper hand in the battlefield. However, the balance soon changed to his disadvantage when our forces foiled all his attempts to besiege our forces in several areas. Our armed forces are now in full control of the situation in the south and they can do whatever they like but, from a cultural and moral viewpoint, they are still committed to the cease-fire decision except in cases of self-defence.

Question: In a previous statement you said that the peace door was still not closed to Garang. What did you mean by that?

Answer: That was a message to Garang. We have sent emissaries and continously emphasized that the door to dialogue is open and that it is meaningless to brandish weapons at a time when everyone opts for dialogue. We still say that and we repeat it through *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*. We are ready for dialogue and understanding. We have no wish to continue the fighting, because we are engaged in a war in which there can be no victor and no vanquished and which is actually a state of infighting, not fighting.

Question: Has Libya honored its declared promise to stop supporting the southerners?

Answer: Yes, I believe that Libya has kept its promise. This has been confirmed to us by several of our local sources. I believe that the Libyan brothers are serious about their promise, but I also believe that Garang no longer responds to any appeals by Al-Qadhdhafi or anyone else. I believe that his decisions are now made in Addis Ababa and not in Tripoli.

Question: There are reports of a certain agreement concluded between General Siwar al-Dhahab and the Ethiopian president during the recent African summit conference. The gist of the agreement is that Ethiopia would stop supporting Garang and Sudan would stop supporting the Ethiopian rebels. To what extent has Ethiopia honored that?

Answer: Gen Siwar al-Dhahab explained Sudan's declared and principled foreign policy, which is that Sudan is interested in establishing relations with its neighbors on the basis of mutual respect, territorial integrity, and nonuse of borders for the training of infiltration of forces of other states. He asked Colonel Mengistu to honor that agreement and restrict Garang's movement, particularly since its continuation was no longer justified. He also asked him officially to close down the radio of the so-called Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which has been directed against the TMCand against the Sudanese people and which has been instigating the people and spreading its venom. Regrettably, Col Mengistu did not respond to that request.

Question: Based on your assessment of the situation, do you expect the problem of the south to be solved by political or military means?

Answer: A political solution is the basis and a military solution is the alternative. Our quest is for the basis, which we seek to achieve through dialogue and through all mediators who can play any part in solving that problem. We very much want this war to end with the least possible losses, but if the political solution fails then we will have no choice but to resort to the alternative, which is the military solution.

Question: Would you say that Sudan is a stable country?

Answer: My assessment as a military man is that, as far as security is concerned, Sudan is a stable country, but I believe that there is no political stability. I do not like the current political situation in Sudan very much. I believe that there is a lack of political stability as far as the man in the strees is concerned That is because the political parties are not united. They are divided from within, and national and pan-Arab causes require all to be united like one man, and that I do not see in the political street.

Question: Some press reports speak of differences within the TMC and between it and the cabinet. How true are these reports?

Answer: There are no differences. Some voices at home and abroad are trying to divide the Military Council and to drive a wedge between it and the cabinet and between it and the National Grouping, but I want to emphasize that the relations among these three bodies are based on a national sense of what is needed at this stage. There are no differences whatsoever.

Through *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* I appeal to all the political forces and national parties in Sudan to close their ranks because very many dangers are threatening Sudan at home and abroad.

Al-Ummah Party Leader Views Current Issues

PM100938 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 85 pp 1,6

[Report on interview with Al-Ummah Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi by 'Abdallah al-Haj in Jeddah — date not given]

[Excerpts] Sudanese al-Ummah Party leader Sadiq al-Mahdi said that John Garang, the dissident leader, does not represent southern Sudan and has no sympathizers in the Sudanese army, with the exception of a very small group that cannot tarnish the name of the Sudanese Army, which is regarded as the nation's sheild.

In an exclusive statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* he expressed the hope that Sudan will be able to solve its national political and economic problems as soon as possible so that it will be able to play its Arab, Islamic, and African role in the region. The democratic way is the way to solve all Sudan's problems and, therefore, the realization of Sudanese democracy should be speeded up.

Commenting on recent events in Khartoum, he said: The fact is that the defunct regime created some explosive situations, which are now coming to a head and worsening. With regard to the problems of the south, we believe that the previous regime committed historical injustices against the inhabitants of the south. Those who carried arms against that regime were justified in that the regime refused dialogue with them and refused to rectify the situation. The regime imposed its views on the country by force.

He added: But when the defunct regime collapsed a regime came into being that believes in a democratic and popular government, political organizations, free dialogue, and free choice. Therefore, there is no longer any justification for carrying arms against a regime that believes in such principles and views.

However, the dissident movement led by John Garang did not wish to respond to these changes that have opened up an avenue to a peaceful solution in the country. Instead the movement escalated its offensive against the democratic situation in Sudan, hindered peace efforts, attacked unarmed villages, and sought the assistance of suspect elements such as Philip Ghabush.

Question: What is the extent of the support for John Garang among the southerners and how much does this influence current events?

Answer: This faction is isolated in the south as well as in the Nubian mountains: It is rejected by all the forces that it is trying to exploit. John Garang, for example, leads a faction of the Dinka tribe, but in the upper Nile in particular the al-Nuwayir tribe is not with him, nor is the equatorial region. The equatorial tribes are not with him. In fact he does not represent the south. Nor does he represent the African Sudanese, as he claims to do. The Arab and non-Arab elements have been coexisting together for a long time and there is no question of exploiting racial or tribal differences. They are trying to win over the non-Sudanese to their ranks in order to stand against Islam in Sudan. But this too has failed.

The fact is that the majority of the non-Muslims wish to live with the Muslims in peace and harmony and the non-Arabs wish to live with the Arabs in peace and security. Generally the southerners are now inclined toward unionist principles and want one united sudan.

Question: Do you think that the Sudanese Army situation is reassuring, especially as it includes elements from the south?

Answer: I am confident of the Sudanese Army's patriotism. As I have already said, there are regions in the south that reject John Garang's hegemony. These are the equatorial and the Upper Nile regions. Garang has no sympathizers in the Army except for one small faction, which cannot bleimish the Army's reputation.

Question: After your name appeared on the list of assassinations that were going to be carried out in the abortive coup do you still believe in the need for solving the problem of the south through democratic and peaceful dialogue?

Answer: We still adhere to democratic and constructive dialogue to solve the problem of the south and all the problems from which Sudan is suffering. Realistic dialogue is the right path to the ideal solution.

TMC Appoints Elections Committee, Hears Reports

JN121905 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1758 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Oct (SUNA) — The Transitional Military Council [TMC] today approved the establishment of the national elections committee under the chairmanship of Muhammad Yusuf Madawi. This was stated by TMC official spokesman Lieutenant General Yusuf Husayn following the council meeting under General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Siwar al-Dhahab today. He added that the council approved the nomination of a new Sudanese ambassador to Chad, as well as the nomination of other Sudanese ambassadors in a number of countries where Sudan decided to reopen embassies, including the SFRY, the CSSR, the GDR, Pakistan, and Canada.

The TMC spokesman said the council also heard a report on the security situation in the country and the investigation into the incidents that took place at the end of September. He explained that the number of military elements who are currently under arrest is 252. A number of detainees have been released due to lack of evidence against them. He indicated that 21 confessions have been obtained so far.

The spokesman added that the council was also briefed on the visit by Staff Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah, TMC member and defense minister, to Egypt last week and the results of his talks with officials in Cairo. He described the visit as successful by all military and political standards. He indicated that the council was also briefed on the recent visit by TMC member Lieutenant General Muhammad Mirghani to Libya during which he conveyed a message from Gen Siwar al-Dhahab to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Political Prisoners From Southern Region Released

EA131913 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Oct (SUNA) — All southern political prisoners were freed here today. The prisoners from the southern region numbered 34. Foremost among those released were James Tombura, the former governor of Equatorial Region; Dr Lawrence Wol Wol, former governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Region; and Daniel Kuot, former governor of the Upper Nile Region.

The attorney general, Mr Umar 'Abd al-'Ati said that the freeing of these individuals did not mean the lifting of the restrictions upon their property and on their leaving the country.

Referring to the committee formed to study the cases of these prisoners, he said that it had been facing many difficulties in making contact with the southern regions due to the existing security situation. In view of this and in view of the length of time they had spent in detention, the committee had decided to release them, inasmuch as the measure would not affect the progress of the investigation.

Defense Minister Reports Aircraft Missing

EA131904 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1803 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Oct 85 (SUNA) — A fighter aircraft of the Sudanese Air Force carrying a pilot was lost today while on an official mission southeast of the town of Bor in the Upper Nile Region. This was stated by Staff Major General 'Uthman 'Abdullah, the defense minister, this evening. He said the aircraft had taken off from Juba Airport the capital of Equatorial Region on a reconnaissance mission and that base had lost contact with it minutes after takeoff. A search had been mounted for the pilot, whose fate remained uncertain as yet.

SPLA Claims Government Plane Downed, Heavy Fighting

EA141543 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] forces under the overall command of SPLA high command member Major Arok Thuon Arak shot down yesterday morning at 0735 a Sudan Air Force (SAF) American-built F-5 jet fighter. The aircraft, which was reported tohave been on a mission to bombard SPLA positions in Bor, hurtled to the ground about seven miles east of Bor after being shot. [Words indistinct] of the two pilots who had manned the fighter were found in the wreckage of the aircraft, (?which was propelled) by an engine with the number 2487322 Ci 9955 and the serial number 1676, our correspondent adds.

Upon receiving news of the downing of the F-5 jet fighter, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, the commander-in-chief of the SPLA and chairman of the Sudanese people's liberation movement [SPLM] Executive Committee, sent congratulations to Major Arak Thuon Arak: Lieutenant Colonel Daniel (Aweid) Akuot, commander of Twik Twik Battalion, and Major Bol Abang Dhol, who leads the special combined forces operating [words indistinct].

An official spokesman for the SPLA high command has said that the plane shot down yesterday was one of several SAF yet fighters that had been giving air support by bombarding SPLA positions around Mongalla, Jummayzah, and Bor in the renewed government army offensive against the SPLA that had begun 3 weeks ago. The enemy forces, the spokesman added, attempted a fresh advance on SPLA troop locations yesterday morning and heavy fighting ensued lasting from 0600 until 1500. [words indistinct] were finally repulsed. The spokesman went on to say that although the military regime has mounted a vigorous verbal peace crusade, in which it claims that there is a cease-fire and that it genuinely seeks dialogue, what it is doing in reality is the stepping-up of its huge military offensive by launching the third major offensive in the series that had started as early as last July, the spokesman added.

Details of Downing

EA131452 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1325 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has just learned that an F-5 jet fighter belonging to Sudan Air Force was shot down east of Bor town by SPLA forces this morning at 0735 local time. The bodies of the two pilots of the downed jet have been found in the craft.

The particulars of the aircraft, which was manufactured by Norfolk corporation of USA, are as follows: Tank unit fuel number 015 005 001; serial number 1676; date MFD specification number 14649500-13; contract numbers 33657-75 c 001; NSN number 6680-001-386700; design activity code 76823; (?gal airborne) USA 26055; engine number 2487322-CI 9955.

On hearing the news, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, the commander-in-chief of the SPLA and chairman of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] Executive Committee, congratulated on the achievement Major Arok Thuon Arok, member of the SPLA High Command and overall commander of SPLA troops in southern Upper Nile and Equatorial administrative area; Lieutenant Colonel Daniel (Aweid) Akuot, commander of Twik Twik battalion; and all officers, NCO'S, and men of Locust and Twik Twik battalions. According to radio SPLA correspondent, the aircraft was on a mission to attack SPLA positions in NOR when it was brought down.

SPLA Appoints Battalion Commanders to High Command

EA150034 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Sources close to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] high command have (?revealed) that the high command has taken the decision to appoint Major John Kulang commander of SPLA forces in Ranjak, and Major (Nashijak Nashiluk), the commander of Aqrab [Scorpion] battalion, as alternate members of the SPLAN high command. The measure is widely believed in SPLA circles to have been prompted by the recognition of the officers [words indistinct]. It is worth mentioning that Maj John Kulang [words indistinct] wiped out Siwar al-Dhahab's militia forces of Abdullah Chuol, whereas (Nashijak Nashiluk) successfully led Aqrab Battalion in the capture of the strategically important and heavily defended [word indistinct].

TUNISIA

Papers View Israeli Raid, U.S. Diversion of Plane

LD121354 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *AL-SABAH* notes that the Mediterranean has become an area of violent storms. The paper writes: The Mediterranean has entered a period of violent storms which began on 1 October, the date of the Israeli raid on Tunis.

Referring to the diversion of the course of the Egyptian plane to Italy, the paper writes: We do not support terror and our position in this regard is well-known. We have constantly denounced terrorism, but inasmuch as we denounce acts of terrorism by individuals and denounce the seizure of innocent civilians, we denounce international terrorism even more, for we believe it exposes the area to numerous dangers, the least of which is the reply to violence by greater violence.

Commenting on the same subject, *LE TEMPS* says: The Mediterranean region is in turmoil, and events in recent weeks have developed with unexpected speed and in an abnormal manner. This makes one feel that the events are inteded to throw the region into the furnace of terror. Everything in this regard began with the barbaric Israeli raid on Tunisian territory and with Israel's attack on this peaceful country, which upholds the values of peace and peaceful coexistence.

It is evident that the raid was thus not accidental but was an indication of a flagrant Israeli determination to sow the seeds of worry and concern throughout the whole world and this give Israel a breathing space. Israel can only live on tension and conflicts which serve its expenaionist objectives. Israel cannot feel secure except in a state of constant war.

WESTERN SAHARA

Saharan Ministry Issues Statement on Unity Day

LD131111 Algiers APS in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The liberated territories, 12 Oct (APS) — On the occasion of 12 October Day, the 10th anniversary of the Saharan people's recovery of their national unity, the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture has published a statement stressing the historic aspects of that event.

The statement pointed out that "On 10 October, 1975 our people responded to the historic call made by the Polisario, whichbegan its military struggle against Spanish colonialism in 1973 in order to achieve the national unity of the Saharan people." The statement added that one objective of the struggle was to (?preserve) the Saharan people's unity which constitutes the driving force and vitality of its political, military, and social institutions.

In this respect the Saharan document stressed that "By surviving the stage of the heroic struggle and achieving its unity the Saharan people proved that colonialism has not been able to stop its march towards freedom."

After the statement Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture statement pointed out the various political and military successes epitomized in "the liberation of its soil and the establishment of its state," it added that the international reputation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic is conclusive proof of Rabat regime's isolation. The statement pointed out the recognition of the SDAR by 63 countries and its OAU membership represented an historic choice for Africa between Moroccan expansionism and the legitimacy of the Saharan people's struggle. This choice will also consolidate the Sarahan sovereignty as recognized by international organizations, including the United Nations and nonaligned countries who have, like the OAU proposed a peace plan based upon direct negtoations between the Polisario and Morocco.

In conclusion the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture emphasized Saharan people's will, which is prompted by the same determination as on 12 October 1975 to continue its liberation struggle until total victory:

Saharan Government Protests Spanish Detentions

LD122208 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The Saharan Government today announced that the Spanishauthorities have handed over to Moroccan police the Saharan citizen Mohamed Ali Ould Belgacem who arrived in Ceuta to ask for passage protection. In a communique released by the Ministry of Information and Culture, the Saharan government denounced this criminal and inhumane act as yet another proof that the Spanish Government, which still has 27 Saharan nationals in its cells, is performing the role of gendarme in favor of Morocco's expansionist policy.

The Saharan government holds the Spanish authorities responsible for the fate of Mohamed Ali Ould Belgacem, and calls for the immediate release of the 27 Saharan detainees from Ceuta and Mellila.

Finally, the Saharan Government draws the attention of Spanish and international public opinion to the fact that the Spanish authorities allow Moroccan police officers to intimidate the Saharan detainees and to force them to return to Morocco.

ETHIOPIA

ELF Rejects Government's Autonomy Proposal

GF121516 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Oct (WAKH) — The Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF], "unified organization," has announced its rejection of the political solution proposed by Ethiopia to establish administrative autonomous rule. It described this formula as less than the formula of the resolution pertaining to the federal union by which the United Nations linked Eritrea with Ethiopia.

In a press statement issued in Abu Dhabi today, the ELF emphasized that what the Eritrean people accept as the basis of a political settlement is self-determination and the holding of a referendum under international supervision in Eritrea.

The ELF pointed out that a delegation from the unified organization's "three factions" is currently making a tour in a number of GCC countries to clarify the unity steps that have been made among the three factions "and the importance of the linking of strategic security among the regions of the Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa".

EPLA Claims 160 Government Soldiers Killed 11 Sep

EA140337 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 0500 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] The Dergue colonial army [word indistinct] extensive offensive supported by heavy weapons, tanks, and fighter planes atNakfa and on the Halhal front. On the northeastern [word indistinct] it has moved its army to the side of the fields to attack our fortifications. The brave Eritrean People's Liberation Army [EPLA] is gallantly resisting the enemy offensive on Nakfa and Halhal fronts. According to reports we have received so far, our invincible people's army thwarted the enemy's attempts to penetrate the Nakfa front from Gled and (Igre Denden) to places on the Nakfa-Kabet road on 11 September 1985 and forced it to retreat.

During this battle, which started at 4:00am and lasted the whole day, our gallant fighters killed more than 160 enemy soldiers, wounded (220), captured three, and seized 49 light weapons.

TPLF Says Over 1,100 Government Troops Killed

EA140322 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1400 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] A statement released today by the office of the Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] here in Mogadishu said the front's fighters had killed or wounded 1,149 black colonialist Abyssinian soldiers on 19 and 20 September 1985. The statement added that the fighting took place after the Abyssinian force launched an offensive to recapture some areas in Raya Azebo Province in the southeast Tigre Region.

The statement went on to say that the TPLF fighters crushed the Abyssinian forces wich attempted to capture (Danda), (Debraba), and Mekele areas. The intrepid fighters of TPLF inflicted great reverses on the Abyssinian soldiers by capturing 158 soldiers, including an officer of the rank of major. The enemy forces also lost 477 assorted heavy and light rifles, 12 mortars, seven radio communications sets, two military vehicles, and very large quantities of military hardware, rations, ammunition and medicines. In the same engagement, the Abyssinian enemy forces lost four APC vehicles, which were destroyed; two antiaircraft guns; and a store containing hand grenades and ammunition.

KENYA

Moi Calls for Cease-Fire, Army Discipline

EA111452 Nairobi KNA in English 0900 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Nairobi Oct 11 — President Daniel Arap Moi today sent the following message to General Tito Okello Lutwa, head of state and chairman of the Uganda Military Council, and Mr Yoweri Museveni, chairman of the National Resistance Movement.

Pending the outcome of the Uganda peace talks which have been going on in Nairobi and are yet to continue, I would like to inform Mr Museveni's National Resistance Army to stop shelling Mbarara barracks since there are innocent women and children. Equally, the government should take the necessary measures to control and discipline the soldiers to stop them from indiscriminate murder and molestation of innocent people.

However, I appreciate the efforts already being made by the government to apprehen and punish soldiers who go on the rampage to commit atrocities against innocent people. Strict observance of the requirement is necessary to give some relief to the long suffering people of Uganda and at the same time render sincerity and credibility to the parties in the peace talks.

SEYCHELLES

Rene Leaves for Commonwealth Conference

AB141248 Paris AFP French 0924 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Victoria, 14 Oct (AFP) — Francois Albert Rene, the Seychelles head of state, left Victoria yesterday evening for the Bahamas where he will attend the summit of the Commonwealth heads of state and government. On departure at the airport, he welcomed a Greek delegation arriving in the country on a 7-day visit to the Seychelles.

UGANDA

Officials Call for Cease-Fire at Press Conference

EA141557 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The Uganda Government has said that there can be no meaningful peace talks without a realistic and absolute cease-fire. Addressing a press conference in Kampala today, the vice chairman of the Military Council and minister of defense, Colonel Toko, said the government wants absolute cease-fire and a halt to further bloodshed before peace talks continue in Nairobi.

There is no sense, he said, for peace talks to take place while Ugandans are killing each other. He complained that the chairman of the National Resistance Movement [NRA], Mr Yoweri Museveni, could not agree on an unconditional cease-fire and that he had given the government conditions which could not immediately be implemented.

He accused the NRA of having violated the cease-fire by attacking UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army] positions in Kawanda, Mbarara, Masaka, and Mubende where the UNLA responded in a defensive mood regrettably with heavy casualties.

Col Toko said although from time to time the people demand to know what is happening in the country, the government always finds it painful to disclose the casualties inflicted on Ugandans by Ugandans themselves.

He reminded Ugandans including religious leaders that the fighting forces are Ugandans and whoever wants to take sides should not do so to enlarge the rift between Ugandans themselves. He reaffirmed the government's determination to involve everybody in the peace talks.

Col Toko noted with regret that the people of Fort Portal and Kasese are now suffering as the areas are cut off from the supply of essential commodities from Kampala. He accused the NRA in the two areas of looting money, vehicles, and fuel from businessmen to operate their mobile brigade, and wondered whether this is the discipline which Museveni claims his army is reputed for.

Col Toko also expressed shock at the recruitment and arming of children, who are supposed to go to school, to kill any UNLA soldier on sight. He wondered what generation Mr Museveni wants to create in this part of Uganda.

Col Toko explained that the propaganda carried by the UNLA [as heard] that some of the parts of the country are under them is a misguided fallacy because the NRA did not conquer those areas but occupied them when the UNLA withdrew to their barracks and welcomed them there following the fall of Obote.

Col Toko said that the continued militarization of NRA by Mr Museveni to continue an armed conflict against fellow Ugandans leaves a lot to be desired as Ugandans do not know whether Mr Museveni wants to rule them by the gun or seek their mandate through an election. He said the NRA should not be deceived into thinking that the future of this country will be determined by the interests of a single fighting group. It is in this connection, he said that the government has decided to call a national conference with fair representation from all parts of the country, creeds, and political parties to deliberate and recommend the process of a smooth transfer of power to civilians through a general election.

Turning to the government's proposals to the peace talks, Col Toko said the government is committed to total disarmament to avoid fighting forces [words indistinct] under the supervision of a peace-keeping force drawn from commonwealth countries and formation of a national army. He said that the decision by the government to arm its own forces, proves the government's commitment and sincerity to achieve peace in the country. He said by the end of the third round of the Nairobi peace talks the NRM was [words indistinct] and bringing in of foreign troops.

Col Toko disclosed that the government has received reports that some former Obote ministers were recruiting people along the Kenya-Uganda border to build an army which would bring back Obote. He also revealed that according to other reports some former Obote ministers are holding private meetings with members of NRM in a hotel in Nairobi and wondered how Museveni who fought to topple Obote is now seeking alliance with them against the government.

Turning to the discipline of soldiers, Col Toko said while every step is being taken to discipline soldiers including through courts martial, the public is called upon to report any incidents involving any member of the armed forces to the nearest police station or military establishment.

The prime minister and minister of internal affairs, Mr Paulo Ssemogerere, said although there are some [words indistinct] system in the country, Ugandans have once more an opportunity to speak freely on the proposals on the future of a better Uganda. He said Uganda should not be judged by the present political and military systems because the systems are not permanent and may give way to a better government which might be good for all Ugandans. He called upon the public to help the police to apprehend law-breakers by bringing forward criminal evidence against them.

In reply to a question on Uganda's foreign policy on nonalignment and South Africa, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Olara Otunnu, reaffirmed the government's policy of nonalignment. He said Uganda wants majority rule in South Africa and independence for Namibia.

The press conference was also attended by a member of the Military Council, Major Onzi.

Foreign Minister Cited on Nairobi Peace Talks

EA120026 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Uganda's problems are political and can only be solved politically, but not through fighting. This was stated by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Olra Otunnu, when he was addressing the members of the Makerere University community today. He outlined what has been taking place at the Nairobi peace talks since they were convened last August. He said the talks had not broken down, but were adjourned on a mutual agreement with the National Resistance Army.

He said that both sides agreed to have the talks resume as soon as possible after consultations and study of issues by both sides. He appealed to all Ugandans not to underestimate the delay of the talks but to hope that the talks will be successful.

TMC Establishment of General Court Martial Noted

EA120024 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] A general court martial has been set up to try members of the armed forces, including fighting groups, who are found committing service offences as defined in the Armed Forces Act. According to a press release issued in Kampala this evening, the decision to set up a general court martial was taken yesterday at the council meeting.

Announcing the decision, the vice-chairman of the military council and minister of defense. Colonel Gad Wilson Toko, reiterated the council's determination to instill discipline among the soldiers at all levels. The composition and (?membership) of the court will be announced in due course.

Masaka Barracks Reportedly Falls to NRA Forces

EA131927 Nairobi THE SUNDAY NATION in English
13 Oct 85 p 1

[By "*NATION* correspondent and agencies"]

[Excerpts] Besieged Ugandan Army soldiers who have been holed up in a military barracks at Masaka since September 25 have surrendered to Ugandan rebel troops, the National Resistance Army (NRA) has announced here.

A NRA office said rebel troops at Masaka, 130 kms southwest of Kampala, had reported the surrender on Thursday of more than 700 officers and men of the regular army's 32nd mechanised infantry battalion. No confirmation of the claim could be obtained from the ruling Military Council in Kampala, which was meeting there today.

The NRA officer also told the press that an NRA force of about 700 men which took Mityana from government forces early this month was now on its way south to reinforce the rebel forces at Masaka.

According to press reports in Kampala yesterday, government troops were heading towards Masaka, Uganda's third-largest city, ater recapturing a vital bridge from the NRA at Kayabwe, about 30 kms from Masaka.

The NRA officer said the rebel forces fifth battalion was moving to Masaka to reinforce the NRA's Central Mobile Brigade, which is commanded by Salim Saleh, half-brother of Chief Yoweri Museveni.

The brigade has been occupying Masaka and the surrounding areas since September 25. The officer said Mityana was being defended by the NRA's Seventh Battalion, which had mined the road leading from here to the capital 60 km to the east.

The AFP correspondent yesterday took this road back to the capital, and was delayed several hours because, the officer said, it had to be demined. But a young rebel at the last NRA roadblock just 45 km from Kampala said the road, which leads to the NRA stronghold at the far western town of Fort Portal, had never been mined.

Not one government soldier was to be seen along the road as it led into Kampala's western suburbs.

The NRA officer also announced that the NRA rebels had ambushed regular army troops on Thursday on the road from Mpigi to Kabulasoke in the Mpigi region about 80 kms southwest of Kampala. The officer, who asked not to be named, said 27 regular Army soldiers had been killed in the ambush, and eight captured, including one who was being treated for light wounds. He gave no details of NRA casualties, but added that about 30 Army soldiers were being held by the NRA at Mityana, 60 km west of Kampala. The officer said the captured government troops were being treated as prisoners of war.

Meanwhile, an army offensive is to reopen the strategic road to south-Western Uganda and to break the NRA's control of the area was stalled today at a bridge over the Katonga River.

Despite media reports that 1,000 to 1,500 army troops had recaptured the bridge yesterday after pounding the rebels with mortar, rocket and artillery fire during a 6-hour battle, the NRA was still firmly entrenched today at the southwest end of the bridge. From their vantage point, the rebels can pick off anyone who sets foot on the 55-foot bridge and the army reportedly had requested heavier weaponry before trying to take the bridge again.

Other reports say the Uganda federal Democratic Movement (Fedemu) has announced that its military wing, the Federal Democratic Army, had launched defensive military operations, against the NRA in the Mpigi district near the capital and in the Masaka District of southwest Uganda.

Military Council Denies Reports

EA131931 Kampala Domestic Service in Swahili
1800 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Kampala: A Military Council spokesman has denied reports published in today's edition of *THE SUNDAY NATION* in Kenya that government troops had surrendered to National Resistance Army soldiers [word indistinct]. The spokesman said that Uganda National Liberation Army Forces in Masaka were still in their barracks as ordered so as to avoid the killing of civilians. The spokesman added that for the last 4 weeks such reports had been published in several newspapers, saying that Masaka barracks had been captured. Newspaper readers are requested to recognize that the reports are false and are aimed at confusing the citizens.

NRA Reportedly Kills Over 200 Government Troops

EA140310 Nairobi THE SUNDAY TIMES in English
13 Oct 85 p 24

[By Henry Gombya]

[Excerpt] Kampala, 12 Oct — More than 200 government troops have been killed by soldiers of the National Resistance Army (NRA), according to reports from southern Uganda. A traveller who arrived in Kampala this morning said several dead bodies of Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) soldiers are still lying in the open, while survivors are seeking help from civilians to bury the dead. Most of those killed died as a result of landmines that the NRA planted along all roads leading to Masaka. Other casualties were inflicted by UNLA soldiers.

However, more UNLA reinforcements are being sent to try to recapture Masaka town which the NRA seized about three weeks ago. At least 2,000 UNLA soldiers have so far been deployed in areas like Gomba, Kanoni, and Wasinda, while others are camped between Katonga River and Kayabwe where most of the fighting is concentrated. Government troops have crossed the bridge along River Katonga, and are heading towards Lukaya town. There is widespread looting in the area and removing of clothes from civilians according to other reports.

Nairobi Daily Reports Shooting in Kampala

EA111816 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
11 Oct 85 p 1

[Kampala dispatch by Edward Kitaka: "Chaos as Kampala Troops Shoot it Out"]

[Excerpts] Kampala, Thursday — Panic once again gripped Kampala this afternoon following prolonged shooting in the city centre. Pedestrians and motorists fled in all directions shortly after 2 p.m. when small arms fire erupted not far from the main taxi park. It went on for about eight minutes. But things soon cooled down and it turned out that most of the firing was the work of security officers shooting in the air as they chased and arrested three unruly soldiers who had previously fired on and critically injured a fishmonger in Owino market in downtown Kampala.

Meanwhile, two women were shot dead on Tuesday night near and around Makindye by men dressed like government soldiers who went around terrorising the whole neighbourhood, "*MUNNO*" newspaper reported today. The men, who went from door to door to rob, shot dead a Mrs Namusisi Ssakwe after they had unsuccessfully tried to abduct her. They went on to kill a Mrs Mary Kabwama after her husband had escaped them narrowly. Four young girls were abducted during the rampage and have not been seen again, the Catholic Church-backed and usually reliable daily added.

CHAD

GUNT's Goukouni Removed From FAP Chairmanship

AB151111 Paris AFP in French 1041 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Paris, 15 Oct (AFP) — Goukouni Oueddei, leader of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT — armed opposition to President Habre) has been dismissed from the chairmanship of the People's Armed Forces (FAP) and excluded from his politico-military faction, it was announced in a communique sent from Tripoli today to AFP in Paris.

In the communique, the first FAP vice chairman, Mahamat Issa Idriss, accused Mr Goukouni of having carried out a policy of division "in connivance with the enemy" (the Ndjamena government) and he called on all other factions within the "Chadian revolutionary forces" to assume their responsibilities.

Bardai Reports FAN 'Offensive' Defeated

AB131635 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1830 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Our military correspondent has informed us that very violent clashes broke out these past few days in the southern part of the country and ended to the exclusive advantage of the Codos [commando units] of the National Liberation Army [ANL].

According to our correspondent, it all started with the vast offensive launched by the puppet army in a bid to crush the Codos. After receiving timely information on the preparations of the enemies, especially on the details of their projected attack and on their positions, the Codos took certain precautions. As a result, the FAN offensive was shortlived. The FAN horde sustained heavy material and human losses.

Habre on Relations With Sudan, Domestic Problems

JN141932 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Oct (SUNA) — Chadian President Hissein Habre has announced that he will visit Sudan as soon as Transitional Military Council Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab finds time for such a visit, pointing to the ties of blood and history between Chad and Sudan and expressing his appreciation for the Sudanese people and government for their position on supporting stability in Chad. In a lengthy statement to SUNA, President Habre said the Chadian Govenment is working to rebuild Chad, whose economy and infrastructure were destroyed by the civil war. The government has made good progress in drawing up the bases of agricultura, industrial, and communications development.

Asked about the settlement of situation in northern Chad, the Chadian president affirmed that his country is serious about holding negotiations with its neighbor, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, to achieve a solution to the problem, but he described Libya's position as intransigent. He added that Libya's conditions mean the annexation of Chad to Libya or the conclusion of a military cooperation agreement that would lead to the same goal.

The Chadian president also affirmed that his hand is offered to the opposition both inside and outside the country. Some progress has been made, but an end should be put to the outlaws who try to increase differences. He added that the national union for independence and revolution, the ruling organization in Chad, is the best framework for uniting the Chadian people on the basis of preserving the country's independence, protecting its territorial integrity and sovereignty, and achieving national accord.

He explained that the world's economic situation does not encourage any optimism about Africa in the year 2000, stressing the need to exert further efforts to achieve development and justice in distribution. Drought in the region requires a search for new water resources. He said that Chad has huge quantities of subterranean water.

Demonstrations Denounce Libyan 'Occupation'

AB111824 Paris AFP in French 1645 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Ndjamena, 11 Oct (AFP) — Several thousand people this morning demonstrated in Ndjamena to denounce Libya's occupation of northern Chad and to express their support for Chadians living in these "areas under Libyan occupation."

Several political figures, including members of the government and of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, the sole ruling party in Ndjamena, gathered at the Independence Square to receive the demonstrators who were estimated at 40,000 by the organizers of the demonstration. In an address, which was hostile to the leader of the Libyan revolution, Chadian Public Works Minister Moussa Kadam declared, "Al-Qadhdhafi, the outlaw, get out of Chad."

Several demonstrations had already been organized in Chad to denounce Libya's military presence in northern Chad by the side of Chadian guerrillas.

CONGO

OAU Secretary General Addresses Brazzaville Dinner

AB110640 Dakar PANA in English 1646 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] Brazzaville, 10 Oct (ACI/PANA) — OAU secretary general, Mr Ide Oumarou, yesterday in Brazzaville called on the OAU states to unite politically in order to reduce the economic difficulties which are humiliating Africa. There are in Africa economic difficulties which are humiliating our continent, for we are still obliged to hold out our hands to the people we have thrown out in order to run our own affairs, he said. He was speaking to the African ambassadors in Congo during a dinner given by the Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Antoine Ndinga Oba. I think we have to show proof that we did actually move out of the era of obscurantism, he said specifying that our relentlessness should be aimed at creating political unity, tolerance, and complementarity in the relations between the states.

The OAU secretary general, who left Brazzaville yesterday for Pointe Noire (the second city of Congo), said that: The people are already united. The ones that are less united are the states, the elites. He indicated that the unity that is being sought should translate into behavioural changes towards Africans first, then towards the rest of the world. To that end, Mr Ide Oumarou stated his will to be at the service of Africa during his mandate. I am a son of Africa and I am at the disposal of Africa. I will see to it that the African flag flies not only over the continent, but also over all international institutions, he said.

The OAU secretary general who arrived tuesday in Brazzaville after a tour in southern Africa with the current chairman of the OAU, Mr Abdou Diouf, started Wednesday night his first official visit to the Congo, due to end on Saturday.

GABON

Bongo Leaves for New York UN Celebrations

AB131417 Paris AFP in French 1010 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Libreville, 13 Oct (AFP) — The Gabonese head of state, Omar Bongo, left Libreville on Sunday morning for New York where he will attend the plenary session marking the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. The Gabonese head of state is leading a high-powered delegation that includes the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Martin Bongo.

ZAIRE

MPR Statement Reports Arrest of Opposition Figure

AB131444 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1038 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text]The fringe, those at which the unequivocal statement made by the MPR Central Committee published on 7 October is aimed, continue to misjudge the exact motive behind this statement and to be mistaken about the meaning to give to the amnesty they have been granted. Indeed, it appears that these people on the fringe persist in a complement and negative attitude by deliberately seeking to augment the acts of provocation and harassment against the established authority. Thus last Wednesday, that is, barely 2 days after the statement by the Central Committee of our party state, these fellows organized a secret meeting at citizen Kibasa Maliba's residence. This meeting was in line with the objectives being pursued by the brains behind it, namely, to combat the party and destabilize our country, Zaire. But there is something more serious than this. These outlawed persons, who do not content themselves with causing confusion within our borders, are trying to discredit the country abroad. A few days ago, one of their numbers, citizen Tshisekedi wa Mulumba, engaged himself in a serious campaign to poison international opinion on Zaire with the complicity of certain foreign journalists, among whom the AFP correspondent in Kinshasa, who — we say in passing — has just received an order to quit the country.

Tshisekedi thought it his duty to fabricate shameless lies claiming that the law enforcement agencies committed acts of brutality at kibasa maliba's residence, as though the authorities were afraid of taking open action and were forced to operate secretly. The state exists in Zaire and in accordance with the laws regulating the maintenance of public order, Tshisekedi wa Mulumba has been placed under arrest for breach of state internal security. The public prosecution department of the republic has opened a judicial file on the accused and investigations continue.

Questioned on the reasons that prompted him to make false statements to the foreign press, the accused said that he wanted to inform world opinion about some facts, which unfortunately turned out to be complete lies. He claimed to be enjoying what he called the high protection of Amnesty International and of the International Human Rights Federation. Such a statement is a particularly serious admission. In fact, in the view of Tshisekedi, Zaire must still be a colony or some poor state under the domination of foreign countries or organizations. These are remarks that can be compared to an act of high treason. Whatever be the case, the law has to decide now. The Zairian law will, as it has done and will do in all other cases, make a free and sovereign decision on this affair. The punishment will be commensurate with the offense.

AFP Correspondent 'Asked' To Leave 13 Oct

AB131750 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1104 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 12 Oct [date as received] (AZAP) — Nicholas Baby, the AFP correspondent in Kinshasa, was suddenly asked by Zairian authorities to leave Zaire Sunday, 13 October 1985, for deliberately publishing false reports despite the fact that several warnings were given to him in the past. He was reproached for his method of work whereby he reproduced exceptionally serious accusations against the government without checking them. Such reports mostly came from sources which are suspected to be partial against and hostile to the established authority.

Disregarding the facilities at his disposal to collect information from official sources, the AFP correspondent again on Thursday published false information following an unchecked declaration made by Tshisekedi wa Mulumba citing brutalities allegedly committed by law enforcement agents in the house of Kibasa Maliba earlier in the week.

In spite of the seriousness of the acts which were denounced, the AFP correspondent deliberately refused to refer to the official sources [words indistinct] as objective an information as possible. He is not only being accused of having published false information but also for having done so with such lightness.

At best, he allowed himself to be manipulated and at worst, he joined the game, thus becoming an integral part of the systematic campaign of intoxication launched by people with whom he cannot pretend to belong.

AFP: Opposition Charges Soldiers With Beatings

AB102104 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] Kinshasa, Oct (AFP) — Zairian soldiers beat up opponents of the government here Wednesday and wrecked part of the house where they were holding a meeting, an opposition leader said today. Tshisekedi Mulumba said that he feared President Mobutu Sese Seko had give orders for a campaign of harassment against the banned opposition Union for Democracy and Progress (UDPS).

Mr Tshisekedi is one of 13 former members of parliament who were arrested and jailed for 15 years in 1982 after setting up the UDPS in opposition to the ruling People's Revolutionary Movement (MPR). They were amnestied in May 1983 but put under house arrest in their home villages the following November. Six of them were pardoned in July last year and the remainder in June, but the authorities have recently shown signs of irritation with them. On Monday, the MPR Central Committee restated the one-party principle and attacked "bad faith which went against the sense of the amnesty."

On Tuesday, the official AZAP NEWS AGENCY said, "the road must be barred to the enemies of the revolution, whether they are active outside or working secretly inside the country," and promised "repeat offenders...the punishment they deserve."

Mr Tshisekedi said today that a dozen men in civilian clothes or wearing the uniform of the Army's special Presidential Brigade burst into the home of UDPS chairman Kibassa Maliba, who was meeting with five party activists. They beat all six, as well as Mrs Kibassa, with belts and sacked part of the house, Mr Tshisekedi added, expressing surprise at the incident and saying the UDPS was engaged in a "dialogue" with the authorities.

Mr Kibassa, a former member of the MPR Central Committee who was also pardoned in June , had met President Mobutu last September 23 in "an atmosphere of apparent great understanding," Mr Tshisekedi said.

Yesterday, President Mobutu described the latest annual report of the Amnesty International human rights organisation as a "scrap of paper." The report alleged widespread torture and human rights abuses in Zaire. The Zairian leader challenged Amnesty International to name names and give precise facts to prove its allegations, adding that the organisation was "ignorant of the real situation in Zaire regarding human rights."

AZAP added that "remarkable efforts are being made in Zaire to improve the situation in the prisons." The International Committee of the Red Cross had a standing authorisation to inspect the country's jails, it said.

A UDPS statement released in Brussels also reported the attack on the party meeting, and said Mr Kibassa had suffered a broken rib when the soldiers beat him and the other people present. The statement, signed by exiled UDPS leader Dikonda wa Lumanisha, said the soldiers had beaten those present with rifle-butts. Professor Dikonda said the incident had broken an "agreement" between the Zairian regime and the party, according to which the government was to free all national and foreign political prisoners and stop arresting opposition activists. In return, the UDPS had undertaken to suspend political activities, he said.

The meeting which the Presidential Brigade members had interrupted was being held to discuss increasing tension between the regime and the party, he added. Since opposition leader Nguza Karl-i-Bond, a former prime minister, returned to Zaire earlier this year, Mr Dikonda has been the most influential opposition figure remaining in exile in Belgium.

Officials Deny Charge

AB112147 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, Oct 11 (AFP) — Zairian officials today denied accusations by an opposition party that soldiers had beaten up some of its leading members there on Wednesday. The allegations were made yesterday by Tshisekedi Wa Mulumba, a leader of the banned Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), who said he feared that President Mobutu Sese Seko had ordered a campaign of harassment against the party.

The officials today said that Mr Tshisekedi's charges were part of "a campaign of agitation and denigration by so-called opponents,[passage indistinct]" statement last Monday by the Central Committee of the ruling People's Revolutionary Movement (MPR), which restated the principle of the one-party state in Zaire. The officials warned UDPS leaders that a presidential pardon they were granted last June had covered previous offences, and not activities since then.

Other political sources rejected Mr Tshisekedi's charges of campaign of harassment [word indistinct] by President Mobutu. [Passage indistinct] the week, they noted, adding that the UDPS members had had complete freedom of movement since being released from prison in June.

BURKINA FASO

Meeting Held With FAO, Italy on Development

AB110554 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Excerpts] The annual tripartite meeting between Italy, the FAO, and Burkina Faso opened this morning at the Ouagadougou seed center. Comrade Seydou Traore and Issouf Ouedraogo, ministers of agriculture and planning respectively, were present at the opening ceremony as well as Italian and FAO representatives and several Burkinabe militants. This meeting is aimed at reviewing the development projects already implemented within the framework of the integrated development project of the central-east region. It is also aimed at discussing problems facing the organization and at seeking the ways and means to solve them.

In his speech, the minister of agriculture recalled the circumstances which led the Italian people to help the member-states of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS] within the framework of the struggle against the drought effects in the Sahelian countries.

Let us listen to Comrade Traore's speech:

[Begin recording] The present tripartite meeting is taking place at a turning point in the history of the Burkinabe people who are mobilized within the National Council of the Revolution. In fact, we were strengthened by our experience of the Popular Development Program [PPD], and we are presently drawing our first 5-Year Plan of popular development. This plan, like the PPD, symbolizes the Burkinabe people's great expectations. It is therefore normal to integrate the rural development program of the central-east region into this new plan. That is why the success of the war which is waged against desert encroachment and for the construction of a better Burkina Faso necessarily goes through a fixed agricultural policy and, above all, a fixed cattle raising policy. That is also why the rehabilitation of agropastoral zones such as the (Nouao) valley and the southern Bagre Region becomes an emergency.

Dear partners, we do not have the right to disappoint the Italian people who are making sacrifices to help us. This sacrifice should not be made in vain. That is why the participants of this tripartite meeting should take all the necessary measures to make the projects a success in the sole interest of the needy populations. [end recording]

GHANA

Sergeant Major Calls For More Unity in Army

AB110454 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] The force sergeant major and organizing assistant of the Armed Forces Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, Warrant Officer [W.O.] Isaac (Frimpong) says the government has good intentions for all Ghanaians. He therefore urged everyone to play his or her role in the reconstruction efforts as expected. W.O. (Frimpong) was speaking to officers and men of Ghana Battalion 25 at Kpedohoe, near Ho, who are about to leave for Lebanon on a peacekeeping mission.

He reminded them that as ambassadors, they should comport themselves and portray the good image of the nation. W.O. (Frimpong) commended the troops for their discipline and said the Army needs the unity of all its members to enable it to go by its traditional work as protectors of the nation. Therefore, sergeant major asked them to close their ranks wherever they may be so as to stop enemies of the revolution from infiltrating throught them. He also asked the troops to put an end to backbiting and concentrate on putting in their best in the service of the nation.

Speaking to junior NCO's, noncommissioned officers later, the force sergeant major advised them to cooperate effectively with their officers to make their mission in the Middle East a success.

Official Stresses Cooperation With New PRC Envoy

AB110520 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] The new Chinese ambassador to Ghana, Mr (Gu Xinha), this morning presented his letters of credence to a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mr Justice D.F. Annan, at the castle, Osu. Receiving the letters, Mr Justice Annan noted that the PNDC launched the economic recovery program to stop the massive decline and to prepare the ground for an upswing of the economy. He hinted that as the program draws to an end, the government will soon launch a development program. This program, he said, will be based not so much on loans but rather on joint venture projects which will involve friendly countries in the Third World. According to the PNDC member, these joint ventures will not only be income-generating but they will also enable the government to discharge its main objectives as the program matures. To this end, Mr Justice Annan stressed that Ghana needs economic cooperation with China along with other countries. He said Ghana has rich mineral resources which had not in the past been developed in the best interest of the people. Mr Justice Annan expressed the determination of the government to bring this exploitative process to an end and engage in genuine development. For this purpose, Mr Justice Annan said the PNDC has taken basic steps in the areas of investment so as to prepare the ground for meaningful joint ventures. He was confident that the interest Ghana has shown so far in these joint ventures would further be enhanced during the tenure of office of Mr (Gu Xinha).

Mr Justice Annan recalled the recent visit to China by the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, and the agreements concluded between Ghana and China as proof of the desire of the Chinese to assist Ghanaians.

On the international scene, the PNDC member recounted the support China has given to Third World countries, particularly African countries who are still under the yoke of colonialism and imperialist aggression. He was optimistic that the struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia has reached a crucial point and there can be no turning back.

Replying, Mr (Gu Xinha) promised to carry out the foreign policy of his government and do everything possible to expand the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He noted that the successful visit to China by Chairman Rawlings is another milestone in the chronicle of friendly relations between China and Ghana. Present was the secretary responsible for foreign affairs, Mr Kofi Djin.

GUINEA

Conte Congratulates New Soviet Chairman Ryzhkov

AB110505 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] President Lansana Conte sent the following message of congratulations to Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, upon his nomination as the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

To His Excellency Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Moscow, on the occasion of your nomination to the high functions of chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, we have the great pleasure to express, on behalf of the Military Council of National Redress [CMRN] and the Government of Guinea, our warm congratulations.

May the new functions which you have been called upon to assume contribute more efficiently to the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation mutually beneficial to our two countries. While wishing you great success and very good health, we also want to convey our very high esteem.

[Signed] General Lansana Conte, CMRN chairman, head of state and president of the Republic of Guinea

IVORY COAST

PDCI-RDA Congress Chooses Houphouet as Candidate

Vice President Post Abolished

AB120752 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 12-13 Oct 85 p 1

[Text] The Eighth Congress of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally [PDCI-RDA] unanimously decided yesterday to ask the chairman of the party to stand for another term of office as head of state of the Ivory Coast.

The party will therefore present Mr Houphouet-Boigny as its candidate for the presidential elections.

Another proposal made by the Eighth Congress to the government is the abolition of the article in the Constitution that provides for the post of a vice president of the republic; the new amendment, currently being examined by the National Assembly which was convened last night, provides that the speaker of the National Assembly should assume the powers of the president in the event of a vacancy for a period of between 45 and 60 days.

Constitutional Amendments Published

AB131051 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 13 Oct 85 Special Edition p 3

["New laws"; constitutional amendments adopted by the Ivory Coast National Assembly during the Eighth Congress of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally (PDCI-RDA) held in Abidjan 9-12 October]

[Text] Article 1. The provisions under Articles 9, 10 and 11 of amended Law 60-356 of 3 November 1960 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ivory Coast are thus amended or complemented as follows:

New Article 9. The president of the republic is elected for 5 years by direct universal suffrage. He can be reelected.

New Article 10. The president of the republic is elected by absolute majority at first balloting. If the absolute majority is not obtained, he is elected by relative majority at second balloting, which takes place 15 days after the first balloting. The electorate is summoned by decree issued by the Council of Ministers. The first round of balloting takes place in the course of the month of October of the 5th year of his tenure of office.

The term of office of the current president expires at the same time as that of the National Assembly without prejudice to the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 4. The law fixes the conditions for eligibility, application for candidacy, voting procedures, counting of ballots and proclamation of results. The Supreme Court is empowered to review the "regularity in these procedures."

New Article 11. 1) In case of vacancy of the presidency of the republic by death, resignation or complete incapacity, as observed by the Supreme Court after the case has been referred to it by the government, the president of the National Assembly or the first vice president [of the National Assembly] in the absence of the president of National Assembly, temporarily assumes the functions of the president of the republic.

2) During this interim period, the provisions of Articles 12, paragraph 2 and 11 cannot be implemented.

3) Within a period of 45 days minimum and 60 days maximum, elections are to be organized to elect a new president [of the republic]. The new president assumes office on the proclamation of the results of the election by the Supreme Court. The term of office of the president elected less than 12 months before the end of the current presidential mandate expire at the same time as the mandate of the next legislature.

Congress Ends; Elections Slated

AB122052 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Excerpts] The 8th Congress of the PDCI-RDA [Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally] ended today. New members of the Political Bureau and the Steering Committee have been elected. You should also know that at the request of the 8th Congress, the head of state has agreed to run for another term of office. The elections will be held on 27 October.

As for the legislative elections, they will be held on 10 November and the candidates have until 20 October at 1800 to submit their candidatures at the Ministry of Interior beginning next Monday at 0800.

The number of deputies has been increased from 147 to 175.

LIBERIA

Reportage on Upcoming Elections 15 Oct

Parties Protest Secom Ruling

AB111430 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The chairman of the Special Elections Commission [Secom], Ambassador Emmett Harmon, has said that the statement made recently to the BBC on party representation at the counting of ballots has not been officially communicated to the parties involved in the 15 October general election. The Secom chairman made the statement yesterday during a press conference at the commission's head office on (Ashley) Street in Monrovia.

On Tuesday of this week, Ambassador Harmon told the BBC in an interview that representatives of political parties at the counting of ballots will be required to stand at a distance of 25 feet.

Meanwhile, three political parties contesting the 15 October general elections in Liberia yesterday protested the 25-foot distance prescribed by Secom for representatives of political parties to observe the counting of ballots at various voting booths. Representatives of the Liberia Action Party [LAP], the Liberia Unification Party [LUP], and the Unity Party [UP] made their positions known at a press conference held at Secom's office yesterday. The parties' representatives said the 25-foot distance, which Secom Chairman Emmett Harmon considered as being reasonable, will not allow them to effectively monitor the casting and counting of the ballots. They termed Secom's 25-foot distance as being unreasonable and unacceptable and should be immediately reconsidered by the commission.

UP National Chairman Carlos Smith pointed out that the commission's decision to have party representatives stand at a 25-foot distance took them by surprise because, he said, Secom and the parties had not reached a decision on the issue which was pending before the commission.

Military To Vote in Civilian Clothes

AB111300 Paris AFP in English 0713 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Monrovia, Oct 11 (AFP) — All Armed Forces personnel must vote in civilian clothes in next Tuesday's Liberian general election and none will be allowed to carry arms except those assigned to polling stations, Special Elections Commission Chairman Emmett Harmon said here Thursday.

Mr Harmon and his four-member commission are having talks with the three opposition parties in the election who have threatened to boycott the voting unless their officials can be present at all polling stations and at the ballot-counting. They have rejected the commission's order that party officials must be at least 25 feet (7.5 metres) away from the ballot-counting.

Meanwhile, workers at the main government hospital here were on a go-slow to force payment of their August and September salaries. Nurses and doctors at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center refused admission to several expectant mothers, two of whom had their babies in taxis, and an accident victim turned down by the hospital's emergency section died on his way to another hospital, the state-owned *NEW LIBERIA* newspaper said.

Head of State Samuel Doe has promised that all government employees will be paid their salary (?arrears) before polling day. Teachers, who began similar strike action last week to obtain the same arrears, are still out.

LUP To Participate in Election

AB131248 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] The Liberia Unification Party, LUP, has accepted Secom's [Special Elections Commission] proposal that representatives of the four political parties be allowed to stand at a distance of 15 feet to observe the counting of the ballot. The assistant secretary general of the LUP, Mr (Arxen Marnand), told ELWA news last evening that his party has integrity [as heard] in Secom to be fair in conducting the current elections. He said all supporters of the LUP are now set for Tuesday's general elections.

LAP Asks for Postponement

AB121625 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The Liberian Action Party, LAP, has filed a writ of prohibition to the Supreme Court to ask the Special Elections Commission, Secom, to postpone the general elections on 15 October. According to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY, LAP lawyers were yesterday seen at the Supreme Court but remained silent when the reporter asked them about this. However, sources close to the party said that the writ was filed because Secom has failed to complete the arrangements specified by the elections law and to fully inform the Liberian people accordingly about arrangements for the elections as laid down by the elections law. They cited the voters registration list which should have been published 75 days before the elections.

Meanwhile, LAP chairman Counsellor Tuan Wreh said LAP will hold an executive meeting at which time a decision will be taken as to whether the party will participate in the general elections.

NIGERIA

External Affairs Minister on Per Capita Income

AB110625 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, has told a group of interviewers from an American radio station that Nigeria's per capita income has increased progressively over the past 25 years.

Ladipo Lawal has the details: The minister of external affairs has told the business interviewers from an American radio that Nigeria's per capita income has increased progressively over the past 25 years. Quoting World Bank statistics, the minister said the income per capita in 1960 was $250 dollars. This, he said, has risen to $720 dollars in 1985. Prof Akinyemi spoke on other areas of social achievements.

Papers Question Minister's Remarks on IMF

AB102246 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Oct 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The *GUARDIAN* and the *DAILY SKETCH* comment on the statement by the minister of finance at the ongoing meeting of the World Bank and the IMF in South Korea that African countries should have a realistic attitude to their foreign debt and avoid confrontation with their creditors.

The papers say the minister's speech portrayed him as being more committed to the IMF, the World Bank, and other international credit institutions than to Nigeria.

The *GUARDIAN* says it is doubtful if the president mandated the minister to present Nigeria's position in the way he did on the issue.

The paper contends that the minister's utterances show an utter disregard for the feeling of Nigerians and the restraint called for by his high office.

The *SKETCH* on its part, points out that the basic assumption in the statement is that African debtor nations are unreasonably confronting their creditors and says this is an unjust statement to make by an African. [sentence as heard]

Recalling the minister's stand on the current IMF debate, the paper says that has succeeded in making himself (?controversial), which, according to the *SKETCH*, does no credit either to his image or that of the government in which he is serving.

The *SKETCH* therefore advises the minister to minimize his public utterances and face the enormous task of his ministry more realistically.

SENEGAL

Diouf Meets With PLO's Yasir 'Arafat 11 Oct

No Comment on Hijacking

AB111735 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Dakar, Oct 11 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat today held a two-hour meeting with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf but made no comment on latest developments in the Italian ship hijacking.

Mr 'Arafat arrived here late yesterday from Tunis but he has so far refused to comment on developments which followed the hijacking in the eastern Mediterranean of the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro*.

No details have been released of Mr 'Arafat's talks with Mr Diouf, who is the chairman of the Organization of African Unity. The PLO leader was due to return to Tunis, where the PLO's Headquarters are located, later today.

PANA on Diouf-'Arafat Meeting

AB111846 Dakar PANA in French 1729 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Dakar, 11 Oct (APS-SEN/PANA) — Senegalese head of state Abdou Diouf this morning granted an audience to Yassir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who arrived in Dakar last night for a 2-day working visit to Senegal.

Nothing has leaked from the talks between President Diouf and Mr 'Arafat whose first trip to Senegal was in January 1984. But it is generally believed that the two men spoke about the need to strengthen the Afro-Arab solidarity within the Islamic community as well as the support to be given to the Palestinian people in their liberation struggle against Israel.

Moreover, the visit falls within the framework of the upcoming UN General Assembly where Mr Diouf will deliver a speech on behalf of the whole of Africa in his capacity as current chairman of the OAU. The Senegalese president will undoubtedly defend the Palestinian cause along with the cause of the majority in apartheid South Africa.

It has been observed that the current visit by the PLO leader, who arrived in Dakar on board the Senegalese head of state's command plane, takes place about 10 days after Israel's Air Force raided the Palestinian camp at Hammam-Plage in the suburb of Tunis.

'Arafat Press Conference

AB121109 Paris AFP in French 1039 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Dakar, 12 Oct (AFP) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on Saturday in Dakar denounced the "cowboy attitude" of the United States in the hijacking affair of the *Achille Lauro*.

During a press conference, the PLO leader said the American "piracy" action against a private aircraft constitutes an "insult" to the Egyptian Government. The Palestinian leader also criticized the "two-faced" American foreign policy which, on the one hand negotiates with some Arab countries for a solution to the Middle East crisis, and on the other hand, participates in "international terrorism."

Mr 'Arafat, who arrived on Thursday evening for a 36 hour-visit to Senegal, also paid tribute to the "climate of fraternity and understanding" in the relations between Dakar and the PLO. The Palestinian leader paid tribute to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, current chairman of the OAU, for the role he played in the defense of the Palestinian cause at the African, Islamic and Nonaligned Movement levels as well as at the United Nations.

Asked about relations between the PLO and SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], Mr 'Arafat stated that the PLO and the Namibian organization were waging the "the same struggle" against "a common enemy" and denounced "the diabolical relations between Pretoria and Tel Aviv."

The PLO leader stressed that the idea of an international conference on Palestine had been adopted at the Casablanca Arab summit, by the last OAU summit in Addis Ababa and by certain European countries, but that this idea was encountering once more the American veto. Finally, Mr 'Arafat expressed the desire for the holding of an Arab-African summit as soon as possible.

Yasir 'Arafat was expected to leave Dakar on Saturday morning for Tunis.

Opposition Criticizes Diouf on Apartheid

AB122250 Paris AFP in French 1316 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Dakar, 12 Oct (AFP) — The Senegalese Democratic Alliance (ADS — grouping five opposition parties), on Friday evening in Dakar, accused the Senegalese head of state of pursuing "a double dealing policy" concerning the apartheid issue. At a press conference in Dakar on the occasion of the international day in solidarity with South African detainees, the ADS chairman, Abdoulaye Bathily, affirmed that President Diouf's policy consisted in "verbally condemning apartheid but in fact acting in favor of the Pretoria regime".

Mr Bathily strongly criticized the fact that the authorities have banned a rally that his movement wanted to organize on the occasion of the solidarity day, considering the ban as "a proof that we are (in Senegal) in a de facto only political party system".

In conclusion, he called upon all the peoples in the world "to fight against apartheid and to demand the release of the political detainees in South Africa".

The ADS was founded last July and comprises five of the 15 opposition parties existing in Senegal.

SIERRA LEONE

PRC Party Delegation To Visit 14 Oct

AB111155 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Freetown, Oct 11 (AFP) — A four-man delegation from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China is to arrive here Monday to begin a week-long visit at the invitation of Sierra Leone's ruling All People's Congress Party (APC). The delegation will be led by Liu Tianfu, a member of the Central Advisory Commission of the Central Committee.

An APC official said that the visit was part of a regular exchange programme and consultation between two parties. He said it would foster cooperation and understanding between the peoples of both countries.

A top level Chinese parliamentary delegation is expected to visit Sierra Leone late next month.

TOGO

University Council Breaks With Arrested Lecturers

AB111821 Paris AFP in French 1622 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] Lome, 10 Oct (AFP) — The Council of the Togolese University of Benin on Wednesday withdrew its support for a group of 15 lecturers who oppose General Eyadema's regime and who were arrested and imprisoned in Lome in September for subversive activities.

During an audience with President Eyadema on Wednesday, the council, which was led by Vice Chancellor Ampah Johnson, presented to the head of state a motion which explained that the arrested lecturers were responsible for their behavior and that they had been rejected by entire university community.

After the audience, Mr Johnson told the press that the council expressed their "support to the head of state."

The detainees, one of whom died 48 hours after his arrest, are being held for having distributed tracts. In addition to the tracts, a draft regulation of the party and a proclamation were found buried under the grass in the house of one of the lecturers.

No link was established between this case and the series of explosions which took place in Lome in August, the minister of interior specified earlier on 28 September. Most of these opponents had been implicated in a similar case in 1977. They were sentenced, but were later pardoned by the Togolese head of state.

They later returned to their posts in the civil service. Well-informed circles are of the opinion that they may not be pardoned this time by President General Eyadema.

ANGOLA

Defense Minister on Operations Against UNITA

MB140729 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] The proceedings of the first expanded consultative council of the directorate of road and airfield construction enterprise ended in Lobito yesterday with the adoption of important measures aimed at improving the sector.

Defense Minister Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, who presided over the closing ceremony of the meeting, praised the enterprise's achievements during the short period of its existence. He added that the enterprise was a rearguard unit of extreme strategic importance for the military activities of the defense minister in view of the need for airports, strips and bridges.

Speaking to the local information media before leaving the city of Lobito yesterday, the minister of defense said that our defense and security forces continue in the southeast and east of the country to mount the military operation code-named "The Party Second Congress" aimed at eliminating the UNITA puppet group. He also pointed out that our troops were continuing their fight against UNITA gangsters carrying out acts of violence against civilians in Cazombo and Alto Zambeze. The defense minister also said that our forces were consolidating their defense positions as well as mounting operations against the UNITA bandits in the Mavinga area where the South African Army interved to support them.

UN Mission To Assess Damages From RSA Raid Arrives

MB140926 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The UN mission established to examine the damage caused by the most recent South African invasion of Angola arrived in Luanda yesterday and was received at the airport by Franca Van Dunem, deputy minister of external relations.

The mission's visit to Angola was decided under the terms of Resolution 571/85 adopted at the last session of the UN Security Council, convened at the request of the Angolan Government following the invasion.

The delegation includes representatives from Egypt, Peru, and Argentina as well as a Soviet representative who heads the mission. Also included are experts on political, military, and technical issues.

During its stay in Angola, the delegation will collect information on the results of the South African military operations in Angola.

Based on this information, the delegation will compile a report which it must present to Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, in mid-November. In turn, the UN secretary general will present this report to the UN Security Council for examination.

UNITA Captures MPLA 6th Region Official 8 Oct

MB140908 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 14 Oct (KUP) — Continuing the clean-up campaign to repulse the Soviet-Cuban-MPLA coalition, UNITA forces captured First Lieutenant Pedro Sakata, the head of the mobilization department of the MPLA 6th Military Region in Cuando Cubango Province, on 8 October. The official is providing us with valuable military information on the offensive plan to recapture Mavinga, the enemy's alternative measures, and the participating forces. Accordingly, UNITA has taken appropriate measures to counter these plans. This has been revealed by a source close to UNITA General Staff.

UNITA Reports Military Operations 7-10 Oct

MB130740 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 13 Oct (KUP) — Following clashes on various fronts throughout the country, UNITA forces inflicted heavy blows on the MPLA forces. A number of helicopters were put out of action during the fighting. This is revealed in a communique from the FALA general staff issued on 11 October 1985.

According to the communique, on 7 October 1985, four Allouette III helicopters with registration Nos. H-205, H-219, and H-222 were shot down by UNITA's antiaircraft batteries near Lomba River on the Mavinga front as they were trying to locate the remains of five other helicopters shot down by our forces on the previous day.

On 8 October 1985, MPLA troops stationed at Quirima, about 240 km southeast of Mavinga, killed a state security official who had murdered one of his comrades on 6 October.

Following this, the situation got out of control in the area, forcing a number of party officials to flee into the bush.

On 9 October 1985, one Allouette III helicopter belonging to the Soviet-Cuban-MPLA and Portuguese [as received] air force was shot down by UNITA's antiaircraft batteries. The helicopter crashed at Alto Kuito village, 110 km northeast of Lubalo in the diamond-producing Province of Lunda.

At about 0200 on 10 October 1985, a device planted by UNITA special forces exploded at the two residences belonging to Soviet officers in Fatima ward in Huambo, resulting in heavy human and material losses. The two buildings are situated at the general staff command headquarters of the 4th military region.

On the same day, 10 October, UNITA forces overran the town of Que about 43 km northeast of Matala in Huila Province, killing 17 FAPLA soldiers. A total of 31 weapons, as well as a quantity of ammunition, was seized by our forces. UNITA forces suffered two dead and five wounded in this attack, the communique concluded.

LESOTHO

Spokesman Says Talks With RSA 'Inconclusive'

MB121209 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Radio Lesotho that talks between the South African and Lesotho Governments yesterday were inconclusive and further talks are expected in the near future. The talks were requested by the Lesotho Government with a view to requesting certain assurances from South Africa with regard to Lesotho's security and territorial integrity. The spokesman said while these assurances have not yet been given, the Lesotho side took the opportunity to fully apprise South Africa of violations of Lesotho's territorial integrity. The two sides agreed that further talks would be necessary.

The Lesotho delegation was headed by the acting foreign minister and minister of information and braodcasting, the Honorable D.T. Sixishe, while the South African delegation was led by that country's foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha.

Jonathan Condemns 6 Oct RSA Attack on Country

MB111428 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, told the National Assembly this morning that the attacks on Lesotho by South Africa, such as the one carried out on Sunday, 6 October, was a racist act because South Africa would not carry out such aggression had the neighboring states around South Africa been white-ruled.

Dr Jonathan wondered how Western countries would react to the barbarous acts of aggression carried out by a country that purported to believe in western values and adhered to Christian principles. Dr Jonathan referred to the United Nations resolution that was made by the Security Council following the attack on Lesotho by South Africa on 9 December 1982. He added that Lesotho would remain a haven of peace and democracy within the sea of turmoil that is caused by the repugnant policy of apartheid. When this turmoil spilled over to Lesotho by producing political refugees, Lesotho was blamed for all sorts of things that could not be proved.

Opposition Urges Commonwealth To Isolate Jonathan

MB141317 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Five opposition parties in Lesotho have called on the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the opposition Labor Party in Britain, and members of the Commonwealth to isolate the Lesotho prime minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, politically and economically to persuade him to hold fair elections.

The five parties also criticized Mrs Thatcher for congratulating Dr Jonathan on his recent nomination as prime minister of Lesotho.

MOZAMBIQUE

Pik Botha Holds Talks With Government Officials

Talks Begin 11 Oct

MB111419 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, held talks in Maputo this morning with members of the Mozambican Government. Mr Botha was accompanied by his deputy, Mr Ron Miller.

The MOZAMBICAN NEWS AGENCY, AIM, reports that the Mozambican delegation included the minister in the presidency for economic affairs, Major General Jacinto Veloso; the minister of security, Colonel Sergio Vieira, and a deputy minister of the interior, Mr Teodato Hunguana. The three Mozambican Government ministers had been involved in the prior negotiations which had led to the signing of the Nkomati Accord. They were also present at talks on allegations that South Africa was not adhering to the terms of the agreement.

Mr Botha was due to return to Pretoria this afternoon for talks with Lesotho's minister of broadcasting and information and acting minister of foreign affairs, Mr Desmond Sixishe.

Our correspondent in Maseru reports that the talks were requested by Lesotho. Details of Mr Botha's talks are not yet known.

Meeting Concerns 'Security'

MB111621 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpts] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha held talks in Maputo this morning with members of the Mozambican Government.

Mr Botha told our political news staff a short while ago that his talks in Maputo today were a continuation of previous discussions regarding security matters in the context of the Nkomati Accord. Attention had also been given to economic cooperation between the two countries.

Botha Departs

MB111718 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Roelof Botha, South African foreign minister, left Maputo this afternoon for home after talks with members of the Mozambican Government. No communique was issued at the end of the meeting. Roelof Botha, accompanied by his deputy, Ron Miller, arrived in Maputo this morning. The Mozambican delegation to the talks was led by Jacinto Veloso, the minister in the presidency for economic affairs, and also included Sergio Vieira, security minister, and Teodato Hunguana, second deputy interior minister.

The visit by the South African foreign minister comes in the wake of the press conference of 30 September during which Security Minister Sergio Vieira publicly displayed evidence of the total nonimplementation of the Nkomati Accord by South Africa.

On 16 September, Roelof Botha was in Maputo where President Samora Machel confronted him with documents confirming violations. After this meeting and on his arrival in South Africa, Roelof Botha admitted that his country was violating the accord.

Machel Sends Message to Tunisia's Bourguiba

MB111505 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] President Samora Machel has sent a message to Habib Bourguiba, Tunisian head of state, expressing profound shock and revulsion at the violation of the Tunisian territory by the air force of the Zionist regime of Israel.

The supreme leader of the Mozambican revolution said in the message that it was with profound indignation that the Mozambican people and government learned of the murder of innocent Tunisian civilians by the Zionist regime during its attack of Tunis.

This aggression has once again proved that as Pretoria is the cause of violence in southern Africa, Tel Aviv, the cause of violence in the Middle East and northern Africa, is becoming the hotbed of tension and aggression, President Samora Machel stressed.

The Mozambican head of state expresses our country's solidarity with the Tunisian people and government.

38 'Armed Bandits' Shot by Security Forces

MB110827 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] In Maputo Province from 4 to 7 October, FPLM forces gunned down 19 armed bandits and captured 13 weapons. In a follow-up operation against the gangsters, who had attacked a train in Manhica District on 1 October, our forces gunned down 8 bandits and captured 4 weapons, 20 cartridges, medicines and an assortment of goods in the (?Chicotane) area.

In Magude District, the FPLM attacked an armed bandit group, killing 11 of the criminals and capturing 8 AKM weapons and 1 bazooka. A number of goods stolen from the people were recovered.

A communique issued by the Maputo Provincial Military Command also reported that in the Pessene area of Moamba District, three dangerous car robbers involved in activities against emigrant workers have been neutralized.

40 'Bandits' Killed; Others Retreat Into RSA

MB140702 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces killed 40 armed bandits in operations carried out in Manhica district and in the areas of Mapulanguene and Corumana in Maputo Province near the common border with South Africa on 11 and 12 October. This was revealed by AIM. Another three bandits were also captured by the FPLM in Manhica and will soon be presented to the local information media. Following these operations, the Mozambique Armed Forces destroyed and occupied two armed bandit camps, one of which was located 5 km from the common border with South Africa in Mapulanguene while the other was situated in Moamba near the site where the Corumana dam is being constructed.

According to statements by members of the population, which were also confirmed by official sources of the Mozambique Armed Forces, after the attack, the bandits crossed the border into South Africa carrying the wounded and the bodies of their colleagues with them. The Air Force, units of the 8th Brigade of Gaza Province and the 6th Brigade of Maputo Province took part in these operations.

MNR's Fernandes Admits Bases Lost in Central Region

MB131120 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Mozambique says it has killed 20 antigovernment guerrillas in the past 3 weeks in the central Province of Zambezia. The official news agency, AIM, says three camps of the national resistance movement have been destroyed hear the Malawi border.

Meanwhile, in Lisbon Secretary General of the MNR Evo Fernandes is downplaying the capture by government forces of the rebel's Casa Banana base. He says the loss of the base was not a major setback. Interviewed on Portuguese television, Mr Fernandes has admitted to losing rebel bases in central Mozambique last month, but says there are a hundred others in the same area. Mr Fernandes is currently under investigation in connection with alleged rebel attacks on Portuguese civilians living in Mozambique.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bótha Denies Moloise Trial Petition; Execution Friday

MB151018 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1015 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 15, SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, has denied a petition for the retrial of Benjamin Moloise — sentenced to death for the murder of a security policeman — and he will be executed on Friday, his lawyer said today.

Miss Priscilla Jana told SAPA she had filed the petition on September 10 to Mr Botha's office to re-try Benjamin Moloise, 30, who was sentened to death in June 1982 for the killing of security policeman Phillipus Selepe in Pretoria.

Miss Jana said she had been notified of the denial by Mr Botha's office "telephonically" this morning.

She said she had been informed that Moloise would be executed on Friday, but had no further details.

Pik Botha Returns from Maputo, Comments

MB111726 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1722 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 11, SAPA — The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and a senior delegation visited Maputo today for talks with the Mozambique Government on security matters in terms of the Nkomati Accord.

Confirming the visit on his return to Pretoria, Mr Botha said tonight he had been accompanied by the new deputy minister, Mr Ron Miller, the action director-general of his department, Mr Niel van Heerden, and a senior official, Mr Les Manley.

The talks had been "in continuation of previous discussions regarding security matters in the context of the Nkomati Accord.

"Other matters relating to bilateral issues and economic cooperation between the two countries were also discussed," Mr Botha, who was scheduled for talks with Lesotho's foreign minister, Mr Desmond Sixishe, this evening, said.

According to earlier reports, Mr Botha and his delegation were met in Maputo by Mozambiques second deputy internal (home) affairs minister, Mr Teodata Hunguana, who is also the intelligence service chief.

The trip comes after Mozambique produced documents it said were captured at the rebel Renamo organisation's Gorongosa headquarters and which allegedly showed Pretoria continued to support the guerillas despite the peace accord between the Mozambican and South African Governments.

Pik Botha Confirms Talks Held With Lesotho

MB111728 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Pik Botha has confirmed that he had talks with a delegation from Lesotho in Pretoria this afternoon. Approached for comment, he said he considered it of much importance that the governments of neighboring states approach differences of opinion through talks. Lesotho and South Africa, he said, did have their differences. Mr Botha said Lesotho believed South Africa was sheltering elements that committed acts of violence against Lesotho, while in turn the republic accused Lesotho of sheltering terrorists who planned and executed acts of violence against this country. Both these aspects had been fully discussed in Pretoria today as well as means of ways of preventing violence and promoting peace in the region.

Slabbert Meets With ANC Delegation in Lusaka

Comments After Talks

MB140509 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1952 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Cape Town, Oct 13, SAPA — The leader of the Progressive Federal Party [PFP], Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, said tonight his talks with the ANC Executive in Lusaka had encouraged him to believe that South Africa could still negotiate itself out of its problems.

Shortly after arriving back home he said the most important conclusion reached during the talks was that apartheid lay at the source of the conflict in South Africa.

"By apartheid is meant the absence of freedom of association on our political, social and economic life," he said.

He had been given the clear understanding that the ANC would reconsider their position regarding negotiations and the cessation of the armed struggle once the structure of apartheid was removed and its leaders set free.

"Although we differed on the question of the armed struggle and the role of violence, I have come away encouraged that, despite the very strong differences between the political actors in the South African drama, a negotiated way out of our problems was still possible," Dr Slabbert said.

"What has to be recognised is that apartheid lies at the source of the conflict.

"I am convinced after these discussions that no solution is possible unless this fact is realised, and this I believe was the most important conclusion of the discussions."

In motivating [as received] the visit, Dr Slabbert said he had made it clear at the outset of the year that he believed the PFP needed to explore all possibilities to promote the politics of negotiation.

"I made it clear we were prepared to talk to anybody and any organisation with a view to decreasing violent confrontation and promoting the politics of negotiation," Dr Slabbert said.

"It would have been totally immoral to sit on our hands when South Africa was sliding into an escalating crisis."

It was against this background that he, Mr Colin Eglin, MP for Sea Point, Dr Alex Borraine, MP for Pinelands, and Mr Peter Gastrow, MP for Durban Central, spoke to the ANC Executive at Lusaka.

"I have found it an extrememly useful exercise," Dr Slabbert said.

The meeting had cleared up mutual misunderstandings such as the PFP's call for a convention alliance and the ANC's commitment to the armed struggle.

The ANC had been under the impression that the PFP was calling for an immediate national convention while it believed this could only follow after interim steps. Dr Slabbert had confirmed that this was the PFP's view as well.

"Regarding the review that we had of the ANC as a Moscow puppet of murdering terrorists, some misunderstandings were also cleared up," Dr Slabbert said.

"It was made clear that a stage could be reached where the ANC would be prepared to negotiate and reconsider its commitment to the armed struggle which had been resorted to as a last resort when all other avenues for political advancement had failed."

Dr Slabbert said it had been decided that further meetings were possible, also with the absent leader of the ANC, Mr Oliver Tambo.

As far as the state president, Mr P.W. Botha's expressed opposition to negotiations were concerned, Dr Slabbert said that as leader of the opposition in the House of Assembly, he was prepared to see Mr Botha and explain in detail what had been achieved by the visit, should he be invited to do so.

Eglin Interviewed on Talks

MB141251 London BBC World Service in English 0709 GMT 14 Oct 85

[From the "24 hours" program]

[Text] Leaders of the white South African opposition, the Progressive Federal Party, the PFP, and the banned ANC have ended 2 days of talks in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. Both groups favor widening the democratic process in South Africa, but they differ about the methods. Oliver Scott spoke to C. Eglin, a former leader of the PFP, to hear what the meeting had achieved.

[Begin recording][Eglin] This exercise, this initiative on the part of the PFP, was born out of the crisis in which this country finds itself, a crisis of increasing violence with no apparent hope of a reconciliation, and we just felt it was important to try to explore ground to see whether in fact one could break out of the spiral of violence and start the process of negotiation.

[Scott] Now what sort of common ground did you find that, as we understand it, you are advocating change by peaceful means, whereas on the other hand, the ANC appears rather to favor armed conflict?

[Eglin] Well, the ANC's explanation is that armed conflict has been forced on them by the circumstances of having no other instruments which they can use to redress the wrongs under which they have to live and would have to suffer. It is obvious that there are many other instruments within South Africa both inside of parliament and outside of parliament other than violence which is [as heard] likely to start the process of change in this country. They feel that violence or the armed struggle has become a factor and they can't ignore that. We just argue that if we can achieve by peaceful means the complete abolition of apartheid and the introduction of a constitution in a united democratic South Africa, it will actually prove that peaceful means is more important than violence.

[Scott] Even though the overall strategy of the two sides might be the same, the goals and tactics appear to be so large as to be virtually unbridgeable.

[Eglin] I don't think so at all. I think if you look at the joint statement that was put out at the end of the meeting, and I think, even the fact that there was a joint statement put out by a political group which has been banned for 25 years and the existing, call it, white political party operating within the system, which seem to indicate that the players in the scene don't believe that the gap is as wide as that. [sentence as heard] The ANC would argue that there are many other aspects of their strategy other than violence. We would argue that we want to concentrate on the strategies which are nonviolent to prove that violence in fact is redundant. So, I think while there is a clear difference between ourselves and the ANC on the question of the armed struggle, we don't see that this is an absolute point of difference which can't lead to some common ground in the pursuit of a negotiated settlement.

[Scott] In the circumstances, would you say that you have enhanced or that you have impaired your party's credibility by participating in these talks?

[Eglin] I don't think that we entered the talks with a view of enhancing or impairing or running the risk of impairing credibility. I think what is here demonstrated, is that there is a high degree of credibility available to the PFP which is not available to other white groups in South Africa, and we believe that that degree of credibility, in spite of the very real differences which exist, should be exploited and should be harnessed in order to get South Africa out of the spiral of violence into some negotiating pattern. We would say that the sum total of this is that: In a South Africa where all people are starting to realize that the option is negotiation or violence, it would indicate that the PFP whites may not have a decisive role to play. Nevertheless, it is an important actor on that political scene and it's going to make its contribution.

ANC Willingness To Talk Dismissed

MB141825 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1620 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Durban, Oct 14, SAPA — The message of the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] leader, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, from the ANC that it was willing to talk, was today dismissed as fallacious by Dr Farouk Meer, acting president of the Natal Indian Congress.

Reacting to a PFP Groups weekend talks with the banned ANC in Lusaka, Dr Meer said the ANC should be unbanned and its leaders released from jail as the first step towards peace and stability.

"Hope for a peaceful solution to South Africa's political problems will only come when the state president and the government show a genuine willingness to talk to the ANC, instead of wasting time and energy talking with Rev Hendrickse and Mr Rajbansi (Rev Allan Hendrickse, leader of the Labour Party, and Mr Amichand Rajbansi, leader of the National Peoples Party).

"Dr Slabbert's message is therefore nothing, but a fallacy," Dr Meer said.

Students Planning Talks With ANC Youth Wing

MB150559 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] The rector of the University of Stellenbosch, Professor Mike de Vries, says it has come to his attention that a number of students are planning to hold talks in Lusaka with the youth movement of the ANC. Professor de Vries said that the students were arranging the visit and will meet as individuals and not as official representatives of the university. He said that although the group did not represent the university, the visit did not meet with his approval. He told the students that he strongly disapproved of the visit and that the university dissociated itself from it.

The chairman of the Stellenbosch Students' Council, Mr (Phillip Pastor), has declined to say when the visit will take place or who had initiated it. Our Cape Town news staff quotes him as saying the visit will be clarified later by those involved.

Heunis Says Government Has Accepted Power-Sharing

MB130508 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1444 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Pietermaritzburg Oct 12 SAPA — The accommodation of blacks in the new provincial dispensation, together with whites, Coloureds and Indians, had to be seriously considered, the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis said today.

This was because the government had accepted the principle of power sharing with blacks, he said in Pietermaritzburg at a function to mark the 75th anniversary of Natal's provincial council.

The structure and circumstances created by the new constitution's introduction in 1983 demanded dramatic changes on a provincial level.

The government annouced in parliament earlier this year that provincial councils as they are known today will be abolished between April and June next year, although the four administrators would remain.

"Where provincial authorities presently deal with own as well as general affairs, it is necessary to make the same distinction between these affairs on this level as on the other governmental levels," Mr Heunis said in a prepared speech.

"In this way a possible disturbed functional relationship between the different levels of government will be prevented and the constitutional guidelines of the government can also be implemented by means of new provincial structures"

The new second tier system would only deal with general affairs, and there would be a strengthened executive authority to deal with these affairs at second level in the form of an administrator and executive committee with extensive statutory subordinate legislative and executive powers.

This body would be directly answerable to parliament for its handling of second tier political, financial and administrative matters via a special standing committee for the province concerned, Mr Heunis said.

He added that proposals for the new structure of second tier government might be adopted later if necessary to conform to needs which might develop.

"The government has accepted the principle of power sharing with blacks.

"Therefore the accommodation of blacks in the new provincial system, together with whites, Coloureds and Indians, must be seriously considered," he said.

It was important that people in the provinces took the initiative themselves to work out solutions that could be put before government.

"In this regard, the Province of Natal and KwaZulu can play a leading role ... It may result in a new relationship between black and white in the region," the minister said.

Buthelezi Says Democratic Government Still Possible

MB140552 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1505 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Geneva, Oct 13, SAPA — The president, Mr P.W. Botha, could even now establish a very powerful, fully democratic government in South Africa which would triumph over all adversity, Chief Mongosuthu Buthelezi said in Geneva at the weekend.

The KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president was speaking at a meeing with executives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (operations), specialists in federalism and international lawyers.

He said this democratic triumph could happen tomorrow if the state president were to abandon his right-wing in favour of a national government of reconciliation in which he worked with non-Afrikaners of all colours.

Perhaps President Botha's real limitation, he said, was that he worked within his unstated total commitment to lead South Africa as an Afrikaner and "his adamant unwillingness to think about future governments in which the Afrikaner does not hold the whip hand."

Perhaps Mr Botha found it impossible to do what was necessary and would rather risk the whole country in his continued attempt to keep Afrikaners "in the national driving seat."

Earlier, at a meeting of prominent Swiss citizens, Chief Buthelezi announced that he would continue to reject the country's new constitution even if a fourth chamber for blacks was created.

He added: "I would not participate in such a parliament even if that fourth black house had powers exceeding those of the present white house."

The ANC mission in exile was therefore now desperately trying to destroy the success factors necessary in the politics of negotiation. And it had to try to discredit black leaders like himself who commanded mass black support.

Chief Buthelezi said that Inkatha, with its paid-up membership of over a million, must now necessarily be centrally involved in any negotiated settlement. It was therefore marked (by the enemies of negotiation) for destruction ... "We are now burying our dead."

He said, "ANC mission in exile activists who have slipped through the South African security network, together with elements in the United Democratic Front, have already murdered Inkatha members, burnt and looted their homes and exercised a great deal of intimidatory violence against the movement."

When Inkatha members retaliated, Chief Buthelezi said, "the media scream to high heaven."

Buthelezi Says Botha Must Commit to Power-Sharing

MB111410 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Chief Gatsha Buthelezi says no black leader will retain credibility if he begins negotiating with the South African Government while it maintains its current stance.

The KwaZulu and Inkatha leader has told the Swiss affairs secretary, Edouard Brunner that before real negotiations can begin, President P.W. Botha must commit himself to power-sharing. The KwaZulu chief minister says that unless both sides move away from impossible preconditions, there is no room for diplomacy. Chief Buthelezi has also told his luncheon hosts in Berne in Switzerland that the national problems of South Africa cannot be solved through regionalization or racialization as has been hinted by President Botha recently.

Unrest Continues; Deaths, Injureies Reported

11 Oct Evening Report

MB111918 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1918 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Pretoria, Oct 11, SAPA — Police 7 pm unrest situation report:

A few incidents of stone-throwing and arson have occurred since our morning report.

Two black men who earlier this week were injured in two separate incidents died from their wounds.

The one man died at Witbank hospital this morning, from wounds sustained when the police acted on October 7 against rioters in the Lynville black residential area near Witbank.

The second man died in Cape Town from wounds sustained when the police allegedly fired shots at rioters near Landsdowne in the Cape on October 10.

At Queenstown, the South African Police this morning came across the charred body of an unknown black man. The cause of his death is being investigated.

Acts of arson occurred at Bontheuwel in the Cape, where a classroom was damaged in a fire, and at Galashewe near Kimberley, where about 150 blacks set fire to a delivery vehicle. The police arrested two black women in this incident.

At Veeplaas near Port Elizabeth, ten black delinquents used petrol bombs to set fire to a delivery vehicle.

12 Oct Morning Report

MB120913 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0904 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Pretoria, Oct 12, SAPA — The following is the unrest report for the period 7 pm last night to 8 am this morning issued by the Public Relations Division of the South African Police in Pretoria at 10.30 am.

"Incidents of unrest occurred in the following places:

"Port Elizabeth — at Kwa-Nobuhle five black males poured petrol into a bus, before setting it alight. The bus was completely destroyed.

"At Kwazakele a vehicle belonging to a black policeman was set on fire and destroyed by arsonists using petrolbombs.

"South Western districts — in the black residential area of Burgersdorp a black man was fatally wounded when the police fired tearsmoke, shotgun and pistol rounds to disperse a group of about 300 blacks who were stoning and petrol-bombing a private home. The home, the property of a black man, was extensively damaged in the incident.

"Northern Cape — at Galashewe near Kimberley three black men were injured when blacks stoned the administration board offices and at Vryburg.

"Durban — in Claremont stonethrowers caused extensive damage to a bus and in a later incident arsonists set fire to a bus.

"Border — in the Dorderecht black residential area, two black policemen in two separate incidents, and in defence of their property fired shots at groups of blacks throwing petrolbombs at their respective homes.

"At Gugulethu police twice had to fire birdshot at a group of about 400 blacks who were stoning private and police vehicles.

"In two other incidents police patrols also fired birdshot to disperse a group stoning their vehicle and in a second incident at a group throwing petrol-bombs at their vehicles. No injureis were reported.

"A police patrol in Bishop Lavis arrested two coloured males who were part of a gorup stoning a butchery.

"During sporadic incidents of stonethrowing at private and police vehicles in Mitchells Plain, police on occasions used tearsmoke to disperse the stonethrowers. Three coloured men were also arrested in one such incident.

"In another incident in Mitchells Plain, where coloureds were placing burning tyres in a road, the police arrested one coloured male.

"Boland — in the black residential area of Robertson a black policeman and a black woman sustained serious burn wounds in a petrolbomb attack of the womans home. The policeman was visiting the house at the time. The house was extensively damaged in the ensuing fire and a neighbour who was overcome by the smoke also had to be admitted to hospital."

13 Oct Morning Report

MB130935 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0931 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Pretoria Oct 13 SAPA — The following is the situation report as given by the SAP directorate of public relations and received by SAPA at 11 am.

Incidents of unrest were charaterised by stonethrowing at police vehicles as well as private vehicles and homes. There were also a few incidents of arson.

In the western Cape, incidents occurred at the following places:

In Athlone, arsonists using petrol bombs caused extensive damage to the business complex.

In the Boland, incidents of stonethrowing occured in the black area of Zwelitniemba near Worcester. Police on occasions fired tearsmoke to disperse the stone-throwers. There were also petrol bomb attacks on two private homes. Both homes were extensively damaged.

In another incident, a black man was slightly wounded and arrested when a policeman fired shots at a group of people stoning his house.

At the JJC [expansion unknown] camp near Mossel Bay, a group of people stoned and overturned a fire brigade truck. Police arrived on the scene and were stoned. Four policemen were slightly injured. Police fired tearsmoke and then birdshot. One man was slightly wounded and arrested.

At Duncan Village near East London, police found the charred body of a black man.

At Burgersdorp, a black policeman's home in the New Rest township was attacked by stonethrowers. The policeman fired shots, slightly wounding two black men. The two were arrested together with an 18-year-old man.

In the Aliwal North township, about 200 people attacked and stoned a restaurant. When the police arrived they were attacked, and one policeman sustained stab wounds. Police and the restaurant owner fired shots and the people fled.

At Chesterville and Umlazi near Durban, two homes belonging to blacks were extensively damaged by arosnists using petrol bombs.

At Riversdale in the Boland, arsonists set fire to a coloured school, extensively damaging it.

At Mamelodi near Pretoria, a hand grenade thrown into the home of a black policeman exploded, injuring the policeman and his wife. They have both been admitted to hospital.

At Zweede near Port Elizabeth, blacks stoned a policemans' home. He fired shots, slightly injuring one man.

13 Oct Evening Report

MB140501 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1745 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 13, SAPA — The following incidents of unrest were reported by the Public Relations Division of the SAP in Pretoria for the period 8 am this morning to 7 pm this evening:

"In Zwelintemba, near Worcester, blacks this morning attacked a private home and set it on fire. A black man who tried to escape from the house was apparently caught by the mob and set on fire. He died.

"A police patrol arrived on the scene and fired shots. One black male was fatally wounded.

"In a stonethrowing incident in the same township a police vehicle was stoned. No action taken by the police.

"In an arson incident at Kwa-Nobuhle, near Port Elizabeth, police discovered a scholl on fire which was extensively damaged."

14 Oct Morning Report

MB140656 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0643 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 14, SAPA — Police overnight unrest situation report:

Isolated incidents of stone-throwing, where slight damage was caused, occurred overnight in Clermont near Durban and Guguletu in the western Cape. Police dispersed the stonethrowers. No injuries were reported.

At KwaZakele black residential area in the Eastern Cape, an SADF member was stabbed in the hand during an attack by stoners on the members vehicle. The black man responsible was arrested.

In the same area, an SADF member was fatally wounded by a mob of blacks. The circumstances of his death are being investigated.

At Kathlehong black residential area on the east Rand, a number of private vehicles were damaged by stone-throwers.

In the black residential area near Aliwal North, the development board offices were extensively damaged by arsonists.

In Sakhile black residential area near Standerton, an SAP member dispersed a large mob which gathered in front of his house and threatened him. Two black youths wer wounded.

14 Oct Evening Report

MB141816 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1813 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Pretoria, Cot 1, SAPA — The public relations division of the SA police 7 pm situation report:

Unrest incidents were reported from the following places:

The western Cape:

At Bishop Lavis, Bonteheuwel and Mannenberg coloured residential areas, police arrested a total of seven coloured males, after stonethrowing incidents.

In the Wynberg coloured residential area, police used tearsmoke to disperse a group of Coloureds stoning a shop.

In the Athlone area arsonists set fire to two buses, completely destroying both vehicles.

At Wynberg in the coloured area, police arrested one coloured woman, two coloured males and one white male, after about 300 people had gathered illegally. In a second incident in the same area the police made use of tearsmoke to disperse an illegal gathering.

Soweto:

Here arsonists caused extensive damage to the Phafogang School in Marokko. They apparently used petrol to start the fire.

Northern Orange Free State:

At Thabong near Welkom the police fired shots to repulse a group of about 100 blacks who were stoning their vehicle. One black man was slightly wounded and arrested.

Border area:

Three incidents were reported in this area.

At Tarkastad blacks set fire to a beerhall in the black residential area, and at Queenstown in the white residential area a private vehicle was destroyed in a fire, while at Stutterheim the police used tearsmoke to disperse about 200 blacks who had gathered illegally.

15 Oct Morning Report

MB150735 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0725 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Pretoria, Oct 15, SAPA — Here follows the overnight unrest situation report, issued to SAPA by the Police Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

Incidents of unrest occurred in the Eastern and Western Cape, East Rand, Witwatersrand, Port Natal and Pretoria areas last night.

In Soweto near Port Elizabeth the burnt body of a young black man was found by a police patrol.

At Kwanobuhle near Uitenhage, four schools and a private home were extensively damaged by arsonists.

At Wynberg, police arrested six youths after police vehicles were stone by mobs of coloureds.

At Langa black residential area near Cape Town, a bus was extensively damaged by stonethrowers. In the same are, a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

At Chesterville in the same vicinity, police arrested 14 black men for possession of petrol-bombs.

Statement on Killing of White Soldier

MB141150 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0953 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Cape Town, Oct 14, SAPA — The End Conscription Campaign [ECC] today reacted to news of the death of the first white soldier in the line of duty in township unrest by repeating its call for the withdrawal of troops from the townships. Corporal Johan Schoeman, of the permanent force, was allegedly stabbed at Kwazakhele, near Port Elizabeth, late yesterday afternoon.

The ECC said in a statement issued here today that the dead man "might very well have been a national serviceman".

"The ECC has long warned of the presence of troops in South Africa's townships, both because they are playing a directly repressive role, and because it forcibly draws young conscripts into the conflict.

"For the sake of millions of township residents, the thousands of conscripts who we speak for, and for all South Africans who want a just peace, we have to say;

"Give them the choice as to whether they want to fight and die for apartheid."

Natal UDF Chairman Detained

MB140534 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The Natal chairman of the United Democratic Front, the Reverend Mcebisi Xundu, is reported to have been detained in Trnskei. According to his wife (Tandiwe), the reverend was detained at the family home in Engcobo at lunch time yesterday by four Transkei security police officers. They said they were detaing him under Section 47 of Trnskei's security laws. The Reverend Xundu was recently released after more than a month's detention under South Africa's Internal Security Act.

Fire Guts UDF Offices

MB111846 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1800 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] In Cape Town a fire has completely gutted a building housing the United Democratic Front [UDF] affiliates. Rafik Rohan is at the scene:

[Rohan] The fire started at about the time when the city was almost deserted. It swept through the old 3-storey building reducing it to a shell within about an hour. The block houses the offices of the newspaper [words indistinct] the Clothing Workers' Union, the Media Workers' Association of South Africa, the Retail and Allied Workers' Union and the Trade Union Media Support Project, all affiliates to the UDF. Equipment to the value of about 50,000 rand was lost in the blaze. The cause of the blaze has not yet been established although police suspect arson.

First White Soldier Dies

MB150618 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2100 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Oct 14, SAPA — Unrest today spilled over into an urban shopping area in Cape Town as defence headquarters confirmed the death of the first white soldier in township unrest in Kwazakele near Port Elizabeth late yesterday afternoon. In a brief statement in Pretoria, a spokesman confirmed Corporal Johan Schoeman, 19, a member of the permanent force, had been killed and that this was the first time a member of the SADF had died in the line of duty in township unrest.

In Cape Town today about 60 youths went on the rampage along main road, Wynberg, a mixed white and coloured area, smashing shop and car windows as lunch-time shoppers scattered to avoid the hail of rocks. Some of the shops are white-owned. The violence followed the detention at the coloured Wynberg Senior Secondary School of UDF executive member Mr Graeme Block as he addressed more than 2,000 students.

The policemen dressed in civilian clothes, some of whom had their firearms drawn, sped off in two cars while projectiles were hurled at them. This followed an early-morning gathering of pupils at the immaculata Senior Secondary School where four students were arrested.

After Mr Bloch's arrest, cries of "action, action" went up and students shouted that they would march to Wynberg police station to "Get Graeme back." The group of about 60 youths, aged between 13 and 18 mostly masked against teargas, then went on the rampage.

Former COSAS Members Detained in Grahamstown

MB111658 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1620 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Grahamstown, Oct 11, SAPA — At least 20 former members of the banned Congress of South African Students (COSAS), including some of the organisations top East Cape leadership, were reportedly detained under the emergency regulations yesterday. A police spokesman released the names of three of the detainees. They are Mr Monde Tabata, a Rhodes University student, Miss Ntambanzi Siwisa and Miss Tambisa Dlula. He said names of the others were not available as arrest lists were released once a week. The arrests took place after the police raided a meeting of the education charter campaign in the Students Union Building yesterday morning.

120 Arrested in Past Week

MB111246 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1231 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Pretoria, Oct 11, SAPA — Police said today 120 more people had been arrested in the past week under the emergency regulations, and none released, bringing to a total of 813 number of people still in detention in terms of the July 22 proclamation. According to the lists released weekly by police in Pretoria, 3,084 of the 3,897 people arrested had been freed.

A police unrest situation report earlier today, said however that 1,006 people were at present still being held in terms of the emergency regulations while a total of 3954 had been released.

Home of Community Leader Gutted

MB110857 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Excerpt] The Durban home of the head of the Claremont Advisory Board Committee had been completely gutted. Carmel Rickard reports.

[Rickard] Relatives said they believed the attack was in retaliation for statements made by (Nyembezi) opposing the incorporation of Claremont into KwaZulu, a plan put forward by the commission investigating consolidation of the area. (Nyembezi) had also called for a community meeting to discuss the question of consolidation, which was to be held this weekend.

At about 0100 this morning the family was woken up when shots were fired at the windows of the house. Then a petrol bomb was thrown at the main bedroom and fire spread through the whole house. Police later found at least 11 unexploded petrol bombs and a 10-liter container of petrol.

Prisons Incident Reported

MB111036 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1004 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 11, SAPA — An incident at the Modderbee Prison on the east Rand last Saturday in which prison warders "swiftly restored order" after a group of detainees held in terms of the emergency regulations threw objects at members of the service was confirmed in Pretoria today by the Liaison Office of the Prisons Service.

The confrontation, a spokesman said, took place on October 5, when "the detainees literally threw objects at members of the prisons service and the necessary steps had to be taken to restore the order. This was done swiftly without causing any substantial injuries top either the prisons staff or detainees. [no end quotation marks as received]

No details of which type of objects were thrown or what type of injuries were caused were available, he said, but added the matter was being investigated.

Press Reportage, Commentary on Emergency

12 Oct Press Review

MB121028 [Editorial Report] South African English- and Afrikaans-language newspapers continue to report and comment on the state of emergency and related topics:

Pretoria *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 10 October in an editorial says "whites and blacks are bordering close on a common conviction that reciprocal violence is justified." Many whites believe that violence is the only answer to unrest in the black residential areas. Many blacks believe that violence is the only way to get rid of white oppression. "In these circumstances church leaders have a responsibility to exercise their influence," the editorial says. Bishop Tutu has repeatedly spoken in favor of peaceful change. It is worrying that his statements can now be interpreted as a justification of violence since he received the Nobel Prize. "The result is that the words of this man of peace are fanning the flames of violence on both sides."

Another editorial in the same issue says: "In Port Elizabeth, the state president categorically declared the retention of the Group Areas Act." Undoubtedly, both the Reverend Allan Hendrickse and Mr Amichand Rajbansi have reacted by categorically stating that the Group Areas Act must disappear. "All three have expressed themselves on unqualified and extreme standpoints. All three spoke from their power base." Fortunately the white, Colored and Indian voters have learned through experience that things are not as unchangeable as leaders make them out to be. The truth lies in between, the editorial says. To repeal the act with the stroke of a pen will not do. "It is busy changing and if it disappears completely it will be the result of application and acceptance," it says in conclusion.

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 11 October says in an editorial that "the tentative impressions received from Seoul, where the IMF and the World Bank are meeting, as far as South Africa's financial problems are concerned are not very encouraging." There is talk of a fluid situation among U.S. banks and prospects of a moratorium that will be extended. Financiers returning from Europe say there is perception there that South Africa has become a high financial risk, the editorial adds. The international banker is looking at one thing: "'How safe is my money?'" This is the reality of the summer of 1985 and the sooner this is realized the better. "The revaluation of our international credit worthiness is not the end of the world for us." It will take a long time to build up our financial name, the editorial notes and concludes: "It is urgently necessary that comprehensive and practicable attention be given to see how our economic strategy is being affected by the new developments."

Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 11 October carries an editorial agreeing with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker that there are "few concrete signs" that the South African Government had heeded the U.S. message on reform. "What holds President Botha back?," the paper asks, answering: "largely his exaggerated fears of a white backlash." This is counteracted, however, by the fact that "the widespread surge of white opinion in favor of real change showed itself even at recent National Party congresses." Citing U.S. Representative Stephen Solarz' remarks that whites would accept a unified country with universal franchise with appropriate checks and balances, the paper concludes: "In the absence of better leads from Mr Botha, these are thought from abroad worth pondering."

In the same issue, journalist Jo-Anne Collinge examines what has undercut the movement toward peace talks. First, she says advocates have ignored the "distinct and binding pecking order which exists in non-parliamentary politics, and the shifting agenda of popular organizations." She cites a variety of public opinion polls establishing that "the ANC, despite its illegal status, consistently commands more support in the townships than any other organization. Yet South African leaders have refused to talk with it, preferring leaders with little support." The second factor has been that the unrest in the townships has caused a change in priorities of the "extra-parliamentary" political groups. They now want a "cease-fire" which would include an end of troops in the townships, detentions, and bans on political organizations. Ending the violence is now much more important to these groups than are peace talks.

The paper carries an article on the consumer boycotts in Cape Province pointing out that business leaders in the area, some conservative Afrikaaners, "have suddenly been forced into the reality of political negotiations with black activists." The negotiations have been hindered by two factors. First, the businessmen have no negotiating skills and some had to overcome their initial reluctance to talk with the activists. Second, the detention of boycott leaders has hurt the negotiations because the top activist leadership has been stripped away and those left are ill-prepared to negotiate. In a related story, the paper notes the increased unemployment and reduced take-home pay which has resulted from the boycotts. In Queenstown, businessmen are considering shorter hours and one noted that "a lot of unemployment has resulted."

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 11 October carries a report that the two major trade unions, the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU) and the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) have said that "police harass them by detaining their members, searching homes of leaders and confiscating important documents since the state of emergency was declared." The presidents of the two organizations have had their homes searched and documents confiscated and a number of union leaders have been detained. Police called the searches of the homes of union leaders "'routine checks.'" In addition, four leaders have been refused passports.

In an editorial critical of President Mangope of Bophuthatswana for closing the univeristy in the homeland, the paper says that while it does not condone unrest, "to close a university is in fact to attract more restlessness in a country that has been peaceful thus far." "We fear this intemperate act is likely to breed more problems for Bophuthatswana," the paper says.

The "Joe's Burg" column discusses, among other things, the day of prayer. It says that the whole affair was misinterpreted as a stayaway. "What is needed, in future, is an unambiguous statement of what is planned, with full details of such events and a categoric statement of what such occasions are not." If such events end up with violence, "those who opposed such moves and those who suspect the motives of those who call for such days, will find justification for their position."

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 11 October reports on a resolution by the faculties of arts, education, and science at the University of Witwatersrand calling for an end to the state of emergency, the release of all political prisoners, and the repeal of all apartheid and security legislation.

In an editorial on international sanctions being applied against the country, the paper notes that South Africans cannot understand the reasons for this as the country's policy is no different from what it was in the past and in fact there has been some limited reform. The reason is that "we have become the media discovery of 1985, and the daily scenes on American TV of blacks being whipped have stirred the conscience of Americans." While sanctions are nothing new, the intensified pressure of 1985 has, "for the first time, made sanctions a reality that cannot be brushed under the carpet." "If the government doesn't come up with something pretty dramatic, this nation will be dragged into the laager where we could spend the next 15 or 20 years."

Noting the statement by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Crocker on the lack of signals from Pretoria, another editorial cites his "telling point" that "'the clock that's basically ticking here is a South African clock, not an American one.'" Why does Pretoria not respond? "Instead of getting on with change, our leaders expend their energy wagging the national forefinger at the rest of the world. Meanwhile — as Crocker points out — our real problem remains the internal dissent that is ripping apart the fabric of our society."

Johannesburg *CITY PRESS* in English on 13 October [as published] carries a report that says: "The boycott of white shops was stepped up again in Port Elizabeth yesterday and extended to last until after Christmas." "Youths demanded that no groceries, meat or new articles of clothing be brought into the black townships," and older township residents claim the youths attacked them if they wore new shoes or clothes.

Another article in the same issue reports that residents of Umlazi "have received anonymous pamphlets threatening to burn and 'remove' the homes of political activists from the township." The pamphlet added that "there were political instigators among the youth who were perpetrating violence," and singled out the Azanian People's Organization and the United Democratic Front [UDF] as instigators.

In the "Percy's Itch" column of the same issue, Percy Qoboza writes that the government's actions in Mozambique and Angola have contributed to the country's negative image abroad and to the international call for sanctions. He notes that even the British, "for a long time matriachs of this country, are beginning to feel the pressure." To halt the call for sanctions and "to turn the tide of this country's image abroad and, in a way, instil a sense of life going back to normal, the Government must clearly start by lifting the state of emergency. They must get both the police and the army out of the townships and release all the people they incarcerated under the emergency regulations."

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 11 October carries a report by Andrew Thomson that states: "Rightwing Afrikaans organisations, including the Afrikaner Volkswag [Afrikaans National Guard] and the Afrikaner Weerstandbewging [Afrikaans Resistance Movement], have launched a campaign to obtain signatories to a new document known as the 'Afrikanerverbod' or Afrikaner Treaty" which "affirms the Afrikaner's commitment to God, the Bible, constitutional freedom, a fatherland, Christian national education, economic independence, and self-determination." The articles quote Professor Carel Boshoff, chairman of the Afrikaner Volkswag, as stating that Afrikaners were "irrevocably opposed to a unitary state and insisted on their own 'republican freedom'" and demanded protection for their jobs.

The editorial in *THE CITIZEN* discusses the highjacking of the *Achille Lauro* and notes that this form of terrorism is no different from "the terrorism that wrecks government offices in South Africa or kills 19 people in Church Street, Pretoria," and goes on to point out that ANC President Oliver Tambo "is embraced by the leader of the British Labour Party, Mr Neil Kinnock" and allowed to have an office in London. The confusion over who is and who is not a terrorist has weakened effective action against terrorism and until it is accepted that all terrorism must be outlawed, no matter the cause the terrorists serve, there will be no effective way to combat terrorism, the editorial concludes.

Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 12 October carries an analysis of the use of consumer boycotts by political reporter Gay van Staden. He concludes that the boycotts have been "devastatingly effective," particularly in the Eastern Cape, where they were almost 100-percent effective from the moment they were called. Von Staden lists the main objectives of the black consumer boycotts as: "to highlight the socio-economic plight of township residents and to draw attention to a basic lack of essential services;" "to draw attention to national political demands — including the release of political prisoners and detainees as well as the lifting of the state of emergency;" "to force concessions on a number of differing local issues;" and "to express solidarity with those in detention and those involved in labour disputes." Coming on top of the recession, the boycotts have caused dozens of businesses to close and have also forced white businessmen to negotiate with boycott leaders, many of whom are UDF members. The boycott leaders "almost always squeezed concession after concession from the white businessmen," including millions of rand to improve services in the townships, forcing the governent to abandon plans to incorporate certain townships in Ciskei or Transkei; forcing the opening of certain business districts to businessmen of all races, and forcing the Eastern Cape business community to pressure the government to lift the state of emergency.

An editorial in the same issue of *THE STAR* discusses the problem of national servicemen who refuse to serve in the townships or in foreign territory for moral or political reasons. Possible solutions to this problem, the editorial concludes, are to ensure that the Defense Force is not used an an internal weapon and to consider the possibility of creating an all-volunteer, all-race professional army. However, the "best solution of all would be the advent of the day when the army need be used only to defend our external borders — and then with the support of all South Africans."

Johannesburg *THE WEEKLY MAIL* in English on 11-17 October carries a report by Jo-Ann Bekker that Eastern Cape business leaders, pressured by the 3-month boycott of white shops, are to send a deputation to State President P.W. Botha to put forward local black communities' grievances. Another deputation to Constitutional Affairs Minister Chris Heunis will ask that small towns be allowed to take over the administration of adjoining black townships. The article goes on to discuss the reasons for a successful negotiation between white business leaders and township representatives in Port Alfred, where whites had been advised on "conflict management" by local psychologist and where the leadership of Gugile Nkwinti was respected by black youth.

Another article by a *WEEKLY MAIL* reporter states that minister of law and order Louis le Grange has been criticized by Progressive Federal Party (PFP) members for "an alleged 'cover-up' by members of his staff trying to prevent allegations of police assault on detainees from being properly investigated." Le Grange was criticized for not knowing about the claims of serious police assault by two detainees. PFP MP's Helen Suzman and Peter Gastrow criticized Le Grange for losing control of his staff.

An article by Patrick Laurence discusses a poll by sociologist Mark Orkin and the Institute of Black Research on the popularity of Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, whose popularity is often exaggerated, Laurence says. The poll found that Buthelezi does not have the support of all Zulus or even a majority of urban Zulus. Buthelezi was supported by 34 percent of the participants in the poll, who consisted of 800 urban blacks in 10 key metropolitan areas, against 19 percent for the ANC, 8 percent for Bishop Desmond Tutu, and 10 percent for the UDF and similar movements.

Orkin describes the findings of his poll as "'Buthelezi delivers a minority of Zulus in Natal, a smaller minority of Zulus elsewhere and a neglible proportion of non-Zulus.'" Extrapolating from these results, he concluded: "'If Buthelezi gets power, it means black civil war.'"

Laurence goes on to discuss the reasons "conservative whites, whether in the business community or in the ranks of the National Party, tend to exaggerate Buthelezi's power," which he says is because Inkatha members are less inclined to favor socialism, less disposed to endorse strike action and economic pressure, and less likely to approve of armed struggle. Laurence notes that as Buthelezi has moved closer to the capitalist camp, his relations with the ANC have become more acrimonious.

14 Oct Press Review

MB140817 [Editorial Report] Johannesburg *THE SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 13 October carries a report by Brian Pottinger on a survey by the Women for Peace Group of 440 blacks living in East Rand townships. The survey found that "90 per cent of those polled were opposed to the military presence in the townships and felt threatened by the army. A further 76 per cent resented a strong police presence in the townships and 77 per cent claimed they felt threatened by police." The survey also showed that "the two groups who felt most threatened by the security forces were pensioners and scholars." When asked to identify the causes of the current unrest, participants in the poll pointed to discriminatory laws, inferior education, exclusion of blacks from decisionmaking and police and army harassment.

An editorial in *THE SUNDAY TIMES* discusses the "good intentions" by which the government, the "political clerics," Western countries, and even students all claim to be guided. The problem, the editorial says, "is that most of these intentions have very little chance of being translated into achievement." "And so all these varied and — superficially at least — conflicting intentions proliferate, raising the political temperature, exciting both hope and resistence, inflating expectations and inexorably paving the road to a peculiar kind of South African hell." "It is time," the editorial concludes, that they "took another long hard look at what their intentions are doing. A government which dawdless along the road to reform, black leaders who believe that politics begins and ends in the streets, and thus abdicate their responsibility to the mob, Western leaders who believe that they have only to turn their backs on this country for the whole messy problem to vanish off the face of the earth, will all be guilty if South Africa, becoming truly ungovernable, begins the slide into anarchy to become yet another African basket case."

Another editorial discusses Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange's "threat to place further clamps on the media", which it says is "misdirected." The editorial urges Le Grange to give details of his claims. According to the editorial, "the inevitable consequence of curbs on unrest reporting is an apparent growing belief among some policemen that their actions are, or should be, above scrutiny." Instead of regarding the media as a threat, Le

Grange "should realise that it is in fact one of the most powerful adjuncts to good policing."

Also on the editorial page, a column by Brian Pottinger discusses the emergence of businessmen as "a remarkable new band of political reformers and diplomatic emissaries." No longer motivated simply by larger profit margins, Pottinger writes that the businessmen have taken the lead because "the decay of political leadership in South Africa, the explosion of black radicalism and mounting international pressure convince many that the survival of the free enterprise system itself is at stake." Pottinger goes on to say that "the problems confronting the business community in its crusade for normality are enormous." The "key target group — black South Africans — remain highly sceptical" of the businessmen's efforts. A second problem for the businessmen relates to credibility and "the level of scepticism in international business communities about the South African Government's good faith." However, the businessmen's efforts received a more encouraging reception because of the "shock the international business community experienced at finding the fragility of the South African economy. The lesson for them was that further pressure would only serve to slide the country down the slope of a siege economy; the long-term implications of that being chaos in the region and a severe setback for the West's geopolitical and economic interests." It is for this reason, Pottinger concludes, that "the role of South Africa's new ambassadors-by-default becomes even more vital."

The paper also reports that "political differences could tear the Afrikaans Churches asunder. Talk of an eventual split has increased and top members of the NGK [Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk; Dutch Reformed Church] hierarchy are at loggerheads." The split was caused by the Day of Prayer, which some leaders distanced themselves from while Church information officer Dr Pierre Rossouw said he had no objections to the day "in principle."

Johannesburg *THE SUNDAY STAR* in English on 13 October reports reaction to a poll showing most whites in urban areas do not believe there will ever be a black government in South Africa. The president of the Soweto Civic Association, Dr Nthato Motlana, recalled similar statements by Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith and says such views were unsurprising considering Afrikaners "'have been nurtured on the milk of hatred and racism. But we also know that when the change comes, such people are the first to go along with it. When a rightwing Afrikaner changes his views, he gets to be left of even the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] and these guys will come to accept black rule when we take over control.'" Anglican Bishop Suffragan for Johannesburg Simeon Nkoane attributed the results to the fact that whites and blacks live in very different worlds and whites are unaware of events in the townships. "'That two-thirds of urban whites think blacks will never rule the country is a tragic indication of the unrealistic world in which whites live,'" he said.

The paper reports that the Anglican church in Germiston, a suburb of Johannesburg, says that it will not participate in next year's centenary "unless the festivities are opened to all races." The paper cites Father David Beetge, priest in charge of Germiston's Anglican community, as saying that two conditions had to be met before his group would participate: it must be made clear that "'all population groups will attend the religious services'" and the centenary committee "'must extend an invitation to all peoples of all races to participate.'"

Supporters of the National Party and the United Democratic Front teamed up against the Conservative Party (CP) at a CP election meeting in Mafikeng addressed by CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht, according to a report in the paper. The town is in Bophuthatswana, but has some 2,000 whites who still exercise voting rights in South Africa. Supporters of both the NP and the UDF heckled Treurnicht. "One thing the left-wingers and the NP in the audience agreed on was their rejection of the CP policy that every group in South Africa — including coloured and Indians — should govern themselves."

The Boer State Committee plans to address the World Court and the United Nations in order to press a claim "for re-instatement of a Boer State — the former republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State," the paper reports. According to the group's leader, Robert van Toner, the basis for such a state would not be color but "'culture, language, history and tradition.'" The group also plans to claim r100 million in war damages against Britain for damages which Britain caused to the Boers, which would then be used to establish the new state.

"All over the Eastern Cape, white businessmen, ranging from liberal to ultra-conservative, are negotiating with black activists — some with more success than others," the paper says. "Almost without exception," these talks on the consumer boycott, "have been on the terms laid down by the activists." One hindrance to negotiations has been detentions, which have discouraged activists from revealing themselves by coming forward to talk or have stripped the activist groups of their leaders. The paper reviews some of the places where negotiations are underway. In Maritzburg, the boycott was lifted after only 6 weeks because business leaders formed a committee to deal with the problem before the boycott occurred and created goodwill in their manner of handing it. In East London, King William's Town and Queenstown, the boycott continues, in part because many top activists have been detained.

National Party organizers are admitting "privately that they could lose several parliamentary by-elections to the rightwing Conservative Party and Herstigte Nasionale Party later this month. This would be a major setback for the Government's reform program," the paper says. While analysts say some of this talk may be "scare stories" to win support for the NP, in "some cases Nationalist fears of defeat seem genuine." The PFP has claimed that some of this is aimed at getting its supporters to back the NP against the rightwing. However, in some districts the white backlash is evident: "poorly attended Nationalist meetings in which rightwingers mercilessly barrack [as published] speakers have been the order of the day."

In the "Writing on the Wall," column, Arnold Benjamin notes CP statements that whites who are fronts for Indians buying businesses will be tried for treason if the party comes to power. Benjamin notes that the practice of getting around restrictions on Asians buying property by having a white serve as a "nominee" had been unofficially permitted since 1885. According to a report on the practice written in the 1930s, "'that the government was aware of the practice is proved by the fact in the very first recorded case the Mining Commissioner himself was the trustee.'"

In a report on a new study by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the paper notes its findings concerning black attitudes toward violence. "In reply to a question on whether the use of violence was permissible to achieve political objectives, the researchers found that 63.4 percent of black respondents were not opposed to it." The report continued: "'In fact, 14.4 percent of blacks thought it was permissible under all circumstances and 30.0 percent under certain circumstances. This means that nearly half of the country's blacks are not averse to the use of violence, which is an indication that the possibility of violence is increasing for this group.'"

In an editorial on Dr Wendy Orr, who was removed from treating detainees after complaining about police action against them, the paper notes the support being given her by prominent women as well as by the various medical groups. "We trust Dr Orr will feel comforted by these signs of support from her profession. But the significance of the support goes deeper. If it presages an awakening of national conscience then one day soon South Africans might again be able to hold up their heads, and the whole country will have cause to be grateful to Wendy Orr," the paper concludes.

In an article on the editorial page about school boycotters, Isobel Shepherd Smith reports that Eastern Cape students face failure when they return to the classroom "but they do not care." They also expect to fail in subsequent years but will continue their "fight for an equal education — and equal rights. For these pupils believe in a different kind of education." One boycotter is cited as saying: "'We are getting another education — a political education which is more important now.'" Another believes the present educational system is worthless: "'It teaches us that whites are superior because God said so and there will never be equality.'" Another said that education diverts attention from the struggle: "'Once a man has a degree he looks for a job and big money. Fighting for liberation then becomes nonsense.'" On the economic boycott, one said: "'We are all agreed. We will boycott until our demands are met. We have no time limit. It is up to the State.'" On the use of violence, another said: "'We cannot have freedom without spilling blood. We have to use violence.'"

15 Oct Press Review

MB150840 [Editorial Report] Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 14 October carries a banner headline "Whites Kill Boy" above a story which reports "a 13-year-old boy died yesterday after being allegdly kicked and assaulted by four white men in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, on Saturday night. The four are believed to be members of the security forces, but this has not been confirmed," it says. The boy was on his way to church with four friends when the four men alighted from a car and attacked him without provocation, the article says.

The newspaper reports in another article that the "former president of the Azanian National Youth Unity, Mr Carter Seleka (30) of Dobsonville, is being held under security laws." Police have confirmed his arrest on 4 October, the article says.

In its editorial in the same edition, the *SOWETAN* urges a halt to the "hair-raising" and "crazed" actions of the security police in the Transkei. "Transkei is said to have the largest number of people detained without trial," the editorial says, and the number of civil rights activists who are "eliminated" is increasing. The arrogance of the Transkei government is "unbearable," the editorial says. However, the actions of these "hooligan politicans" are a "reflection of those who created them. South Africa stands as much to blame for these despicable actions as the Transkei."

Aggrey Klaaste, in the "On the Line" column in the same edition, says the most devastating aspect of the unrest situation is that "we are turning black and white kids into monsters." The white teenagers manning the casspirs in the townships streets come face to face with other kids their own age, "kids who disappear like wraiths of smoke into the matchbox conurbation." These white youths are "defiant and angry", but also frightened, Klaaste says. Meanwhile, black adults "sit in the comfort, such as it is, of our jobs, growing grey prematurely about what might be happening, what is in fact happening back home." It is time the adults reversed the situation, he says. "Let the kids get the hell out of this mess so we can handle it. We have to."

"The Federation of South African Trade Unions [FOSATU] has attacked a number of multinational companies which moved into so-called 'homelands' where they 'blatantly exploit' the abhorrent policies of apartheid," the *SOWETAN* reports in another article. The federation made a report to the newspaper which "highlights the lack of protection for unions and their members operating in these areas." The secretary of the FOSATU-affiliate Metal and Allied Workers Union has said the fight is now on against multinationals who are exploiting unprotected workers, the article reports, and the Council of Unions of South Africa has also told the newspaper: "Unless these companies improve their wages and working conditions, we shall be forced to call for economic sanctions against South Africa — possibly leading to national industrial action."

Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 14 October reports that "nobody came forward" to make complaints about police or army actions in the Reef townships at the special offices opened by the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) this weekend. One PFP member said the short notice given on the establishment of the offices was probably the reason no one turned up.

In the same edition, *THE STAR* reports that Transvaal police have confirmed the death of the 13-year-old Attridgevile boy following an encounter with police on the weekend. The spokesman said the boy fell while fleeing a police patrol but that police are "investigating allegations of assault against the policeman who pursued him."

THE STAR notes in an editorial that a year ago Dr van Zyl Slabbert's visit to the ANC "would have been almost treasonable." Today, "since the Government will one day have to talk to the ANC if peace is to be found, visits such as the one by the PFP group help create a climate in which the politically unthinkable of yesterday becomes the pragmatic reality of tomorrow. That's progress."

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Offers Amnesty for Illegal Foreign Exchange

MB131207 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] The Zambian president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has announced an amnesty for those who have illegal foreign exchange accounts abroad. He urged them to deposit their money in Zambian banks.

He told a mass rally that even those involved in drug smuggling will be included in the amnesty, but he did not say if it would cover both their trafficking in drugs and their financial misdemeanors. He merely said that police and Finance Ministry would be directed not to ask too many questions.

President Kaunda also said he hoped that those who kept their money in rooftops and mattresses rather than in bank accounts would enter their kwacha to [word indistinct] the auctions.

President Departs for Visit to Cuba, Bahamas, UN

MB140519 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda left Lusaka early this morning on a 10-day overseas tour. Dr Kaunda is scheduled to pay a state visit to Cuba, attend the Commonwealth heads of state and government summit in Nassau in the Bahamas, and address the 40th UN General Assembly during the tour. Dr Kaunda is expected to pay a 2-day state visit to Cuba, then proceed to Bahamas for the Commonwealth summit before going to New York to address the world body. He was seen off at Lusaka international airport by the party secretary general, Grey Zulu; Alex Shapi, secretary of state for defense and security; and other top party and government officials.

Kaunda Appoints Health Minister, Governors

MB121257 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] President Kaunda has for the first time appointed two traditional rulers as district governors and challenged them to explain to the people what the central government is doing. The president has appointed Senior Chief Mwakatazenda of Kawamba as governor for the area, and Senior Chief Muchel as governor for Ndola-rural. The 2 traditional rulers were among 11 others who were sworn in at State House early today. The others included two new members of the central committee, Clement Mwananshiku and (Ludwig Fandashi) as well as the new minister of health, Pickson Chitambala.

Dr Kaunda urged the leaders to work and serve the people, stressing that they should carry out thier duties with the aim of building a humanist society, incorporating love, fair play, and social justice.

Kaunda Says Agriculture Only Hope for Economy

MB121233 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT Oct 85

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has called for political stability, peace, and unity to enable Zambia to recover from her present economic crisis. Addressing a large crowd at the independence statue in Lusaka today, the president said only hard work can resuscitate the ailing economy. He said Zambia started off on a good economic footing at independence when her economy was dependent on copper which then fetched good money at the London metal (?rate) exchange. The president explained that the foreign exchange then realized was wisely used in payment of subsidies to enable Zambians to live a comfortable life. Dr Kaunda said that this situation remained so until 1973 when fuel prices spiraled, making the country oil payments to shoot from 17 million kwacha per year to 25 million kwacha within that year.

The president has said that the only chance for Zambia's economic survival is agriculture, and called on the people to work hard to grow enough for consumption and surplus for export to enable the country earn foreign exchange.

RSA's Slabbert Arrives for Talks With ANC

MB111923 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The leader of the official Progressive Federal Party is in Lusaka for talks with the ANC. Frederick van Zyl Slabbert arrived in Zambia this morning and says he plans to meet with leaders of the banned organization tomorrow.

Reliable sources say Dr Slabbert has been accompanied by Colin Eglin and Alex Boraine. Dr Slabbert has refused to say what will be discussed except to say the talks on growing tension in South Africa will be exploratory.

In the past, the ANC has been strongly critical of Dr Slabbert saying he is opposed to meaningful action aimed at bringing about multiracial rule in South Africa.

Last month ANC President Oliver Tambo met with a group of leading South African businessmen.

Talks Concern National Convention

MB130827 Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 13 Oct 85 pp 1, 2

[By David Breier and John MacLennan]

[Text] Historic talks between the African National Congress [ANC] and the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] in Lusaka this weekend centre on the question of whether there should be a national convention for South Africa.

But the ANC appears already to have rejected PFP proposals for such a convention.

The talks, held in a private home in the Zambian capital, are exploratory and are intended to clarify the positions of the two parties and establish what points they have in common.

The ANC delegation is led by the general secretary, Mr Alfred Nzo, and the publicity director, Mr Thabo Mbeki, in the absence of the organisation's leader Mr Oliver Tambo, who is overseas.

Some observers interpret Mr Tambo's absence as a snub.

The PFP delegation includes the party's leader, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, and senior MPS Mr Colin Eglin, Dr Alex Boraine and Mr Peter Gastrow.

One of the points they have in common is the need to release political prisoners such as ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Asked what he hoped to achieve through the talks, the PFP leader said: "We're here to talk. That's already an achievement."

The PFP's close link with Inkatha is being discussed but the real issue is the divergent views of the ANC and the PFP on the question of a national convention.

An ANC spokesman in Lusaka spelt out the ANC's rejection of the principle of such a convention.

"The idea of a national convention was ours. The ANC called for it in the 60s but we have gone beyond that now. Our demand now is for the Government to hand over power to the people. A national convention is now out of the question."

On the other hand, the PFP believes a national convention is the only way in which a non-apartheid solution for the country can be negotiated. The PFP states that such a convention can take place only when political prisoners are freed or allowed to return from exile.

PFP sources say the ANC's tough stand on the convention issue might not be so far form the convention idea after all.

Talk about handing over power to the rightful owners of the country could just be another way of describing a convention in which the ANC would inevitably demand black rule, they point out.

Mr Ray Swart, the PFP's senior provincial chairman, said: "We believe there will be a convention and the whole philosophy is not to talk to people who are in agreement. You negotiate with people who are in disagreement in order to find consensus, however difficult that may be."

He added: "What we are trying to do is seek a peaceful solution to the problems of South Africa and, whichever way you look at it, this cannot exclude the ANC as a factor."

The talks are part of a wider initiative by the PFP aimed at also involving the Frontline States in negotiations to establish a peaceful future for the region and, in this connection, national chairman Mr Colin Eglin recently had talks with the Botswana president, Dr Quett Masire.

Asked for comment on the new talks, President Botha referred to his initial statement in which he said the recent business delegation's talks with the ANC were a stab in the back for young soldiers fighting the ANC on the border.

The new Deputy Minister of Information, Mr Louis Nel, said he saw little hope that anything could be achieved by such talks.

"They want total change through revolution. They are committed to violence and the destruction of infrastructure in black residential areas to make these areas ungovernable and, therefore, to make South Africa ungovernable.

"Apart from that, they are also committed to the creation of a Marxist socialist-orientated State and to the nationalisation of certain industries and, to an extent, to the abolition of private ownership.

"It is therefore clear that the Government and the ANC are poles apart," Mr Nel said.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Challenges UK To Reject Apartheid

MB140724 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has challenged Britain to state whether it rejects apartheid totally, when in 1910 the British authorities deliberately handed over political power to a white minority in Pretoria. Comrade Mugabe said Britain must be asked if it is repulsed by apartheid, as its victims inside South Africa and the Frontline States are under a state of siege by the Pretoria regime. South African forces carry out long-range raids in the neighboring states and inside the country many blacks have been murdered by police and the army.

The prime minister was addressing a rally at the national service pioneers of the Guyanese community in (Timbiya), yesterday. Flanked by the Guyanese prime minister, Comrade Hamilton Green, Comrade Mugabe denounced the schemes attached to loans for developing countries, adding that they make the recipients the puppets of the donor countries.

Shamuyarira Criticizes Smith Interview on BBC

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[Text] The minister of information, posts and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, has reacted to Ian Smith's recent interview on the BBC, in which the Conservative Alliance leader made derogatory remarks about the people of Zimbabwe.

In a statement issued today, Comrade Shamuyarira said by the denigration of the ZANU-PF government's policy of reconciliation, Mr Smith is abusing the very policy which affords former enemies of the people of Zimbabwe an amnesty which saved them standing public trial for their crimes. The minister noted that the Smith regime committed so much brutality that without the policy of reconciliation, the people of Zimbabwe would have demanded the execution of the people who declared UDI [Unilateral Declaration of Independence].

Comrade Shamuyarira said the murders and brutality committed by the Smith regime are comparable to some of the works of the Nazis in Germany. He said what Smith called the Ndebele problem is in fact something created by himself and South Africa. The minister added that it is known that Mr Nkomo and his supporters have been secretly supporting dissident activities in Matabeleland in a fruitless attempt to destabilize Zimbabwe.

Comrade Shamuyarira also expressed suprise that the BBC should give publicity to the views of Ian Smith and support the rebels.